



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP _____

Letter # 5

Camp MacArthur

December 21, 1917

Dear Folks:

Received your letters all in a row. I believe the first one I got from Marcus. Tell him if he expects me to write to him, he should write so I can read and understand what he writes. I believe the next letter I got was dated the 15th, in which you say your are sending a money order. The next letter was a registered one with the money order in it. The next letter was dated the 15th and 16. Rose also had a little letter in it. The first one I said was dated the 15th was the one with the money order. The other I received was dated the 17th. Last night which was Thursday, I received the little package you sent and I thank you very much for it. First of all I hope you are all well by this time as for myself I must say I am feeling fine. You asked about the "grub". Well when I left home I weighed about 120 or 125 lbs. Last night I weighed myself. Can you guess how much I weigh? Well I suppose you couldn't even come close. I weighed just 140 lbs. That's must mean I get good grub and plenty of it. Now I am going to answer your questions of the letter Dated the 15th... I told you before that I had some trip to Camp Mac Arthur. I forgot to mention that for hundreds of miles we saw nothing but cotton fields and also plenty of cactus. On almost every tree around here is growing mistletoe. I was going to get some and send it home but I don't think it will keep that long. You asked what branch of service is the Headquarters Co. Well the Headquarters Co., originally consisted of the Band and Mounted Orderlies from Madison. Sometime ago everything was changed around, but the Company still contains the band and Orderlies. In addition to these was added Infantrymen. Headquarters is the choice company of the Regiment. Just this last week the Infantrymen part of the Company were divided into different sections. Some of the sections are Signal Platoon, Bombers & Sappers Motorcycles and bicycles and also some Infantrymen. I am in the Signal Platoon. This is considered the best section of all. A good deal of our time is spent going to school. We go to Signal and Electrical Schools. We also do quite a bit of drilling and marching. Our signal work consists of Semaphore and Wig-Wag or Dot and Dash Codes. After we pass examinations in the Semaphore and Wig-Wag we are taught to send the Wig-Wag over Buzzers or Telegraphy. I can send the Semaphore pretty fast now. The rate required is thirty-five letters a minute and in the last examination I took I made forty-eight a minute. Semaphore Signaling is done with two flags. I am just learning the Wig-Wag. We have another examination Monday and I hope to pass.

A / M / E / R / I / C / A / N / S /

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The above is the Wig-Wag in writing. By the way, I'm sending with flags the Wig-Wag is only sent with one flag. Wallie and Jake are also in the Signal Platoon. Jake is in my class. It is kind of hard for Wallie to get, but he is getting it alright. Only a little slow. Every morning we go out on the field and practice Signaling for two hours. Since I have been here I also have had gas instructions. I don't remember whether I told you about them, anyway I will write about it now. The first lesson we had was about how to breathe and put on a Gas Mask. The second lesson, which I believe is the last, we go through houses filled with different sorts of gas. Three kinds to be "specific." Chlorine or weeping gas, this gas although not exactly fatal makes the tears roll down your face, like a cloud-burst. Asphyxiating gas which kills. The Asphyxiating, we went through was not very strong, but strong enough to let you know it was there, even with the gas masks on. The last gas



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we went through was called paralyzing gas, but nobody got paralyzed. I have also gone on the range since I have been here. I have gone two times already. The first time I went we shot at targets. I got 61 out of a possible 100 score. I was told this was very good considering it was my first time on the range. The kick of the shotgun has nothing on the kick of an army rifle. I was nervous as "hell" the first time hundreds of guns shooting off, right in a row. I was afraid to pull the trigger as first for fear it would give me a "kop in the kisges". But I overcame that easily as was shown but the score I got. I might as well mention that the first shot I ever fired with an army rifle was a bull's "orgala". This was at a distance of 100 yards. We also shoot at two and three hundred yards, I went to the range again today. We shot at ---. From the hundred yard trench they look to be about six inches high and you can imagine how they look from three hundred yard trench. The score is counted either a hit or a miss. A hit counts five and a miss nothing. I guess I got seven or eight hits. The reason for this poor shooting was that I used a different gun each time I shot. My gun is on the bun, also today it was rapid firing. Ten seconds a shot is what we were allowed. Ask anybody that knows about shooting if we had any time to wast in training. So much for the shooting. Last night we got a bunch of drafted men from Camp Grant. Tough nuts too but we the "volunteers" will take the toughness out of them pretty darn soon. The fellows are against the Drafted men pretty strong here. Can you blame them? The "slackers" we call them get all the credit from the people and are called the "Select Men". Now to answer a few more questions. You asked if I have a pal. No. You can report to the Club if you wish. While I am taking on this subject I might as well let you know that I received a Christmas package from a Mr. and Mrs. Hohlfeld on Breese Terrace. Do you know them? I don't. I guess I better write them a letter and thank them for it. I suppose you would like to know what was in the package. Well the best of all was a part silk army handkerchief. I also got some cookies, candy, raisins and gum. You advise me to take \$5000 worth of Insurance. Well I will get some blanks and fill them out. I haven't asked for the allotment yet, but I will do so tomorrow or Monday. In your letter where you tell me to make an allotment you said "Uncle Sam has plenty of gold." If it wasn't for that line I would have shown the letter and asked for an allotment but like this I will have to go in without the letter. You say you didn't get any mail from me for 13 days. I don't see why. Since I left home I have sent a dozen letters and postal-cards. Didn't you get a letter from me about the 7th telling you I was leaving Jefferson Brks for Waco the next day. Also didn't you get a couple of letters and a postal around the thirteenth and fourteenth. Also I don't see why ma is worrying about me. I don't believe I could gain 15 lbs in a month if I were home. Do you? I believe I am better off where I am. Sorry your business is on the bum and hope it is better by this time. What kind of band work is Leo doing? Glad you got acquainted with Jake's parents. You better tell his mother to stay where she is for a couple of weeks. We were supposed to leave to-morrow but I am sure we will still be here after Christmas New Years. This is all I know and I guess all anybody knows about when we leave. I received the 5 dollars and it is almost all gone. I have enough for pictures. Don't send anymore money as I can do just as well with out it. If I haven't any money to spend I stay home and "shluf". I and Wallie went to Waco Thursday and by ten o'clock I could hardly see. I was so sleepy. Last night I went to Little Waco and went Roller skating. After I was through roller skating I came over to the K.C. and started this letter. Tomorrow I will ask for a pass and go to Waco and have my picture taken. You say I have \$2 76/100 coming from the bank. Take it out and pay up some quarters on my insurance. If I get time after I finished this this letter I will write Uncle a letter. It is now 8:20 and I have been sitting on my "tookas" since 6:30 writing this letter and still I am not through. I believe I will take your advise and try to write everyday, so I won't have to spend so much time writing one letter. You ask what kind of Uniform I have now. The same one I got at Jefferson brks. I have another coming I think because I was measured up for a uniform



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and overcoat. While I mention overcoats I might as well say that the cold spell has left us and we are running around in our shirt-sleeves and "switzing". It was pretty warm this last week. From what you write I think the old town of Madison must be dead. How about it? I think we got the life of Madison here in Camp. I am sending a picture of a part of the life that is here. Do you remember him. I see him everyday. He still has a crooked "morale". Instead of hollering he sings on the Camp Mac Arthur Bugle and the Waco Morning News. I don't what else to write. Do you? Tomorrow we have a clothing inspection and most of my clothes are dirty. I am still in Bing Crapsers Tent and Marshall Depeu is home and is a Corporal now. Some day if I get time I am going to write to some of the boys that asked me to write to them. I guess I will have to write Bob Wise a letter also. So far I haven't written to the barracks about the letters and packages yet, but I will do so tomorrow. This is all I have to say for this time, so I must close with love and kisses and best regards to all

From your loving son and brother

Max

P.S. For Rose and Markus:

Dear Marcus and Rose I thank you very much for your letters and I will answer them when I get more time. When I was in Waco I forgot to get some postal cards but I will do so before long. Dear Rose, I could get an Armadillo shell basket but they cost too much "geldt". Max



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Camp Mac Arthur

Jan. 4, 1918

Dear Folks:

Received your letter this noon and am answering it right away for a change I also received an excuse for a letter from Marcus. I got his letter yesterday. I don't mind his making mistakes on the typewriter but I do wish that he would write something sensible and worth while. If I were to write letters of the same kind to you, you would rather not have me write. I started to write him a letter last night and expect to finish it tomorrow.

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health. For myself I must say that I feel as slick as ever. I borrowed some money from Wallie and had my picture taken tonight. I will get them tomorrow and send some home. By the way, how do you like the picture I sent in my last letter? Wallie had some pictures taken yesterday and got them tonight. He is sending one home and one to his girl T.A. The letter I got from you today was the most interesting and "real" letter I have received from you. The news was very good and well written. And I believe I enjoyed your letter as well as you enjoy my long letters. For C.S. don't write again and tell me that many a glass of beer was emptied because my mouth just waters for a glass of real Hausmans. Just the same I am glad that you had a good time. You write that Leo bought a Pathe machine. Getting classy! Eh? Well, they are quite entertaining, aren't they? Tell Rose I thank her for her little note, also Margeret Ausen. Now I want to ask you who wrote that other letter. There are two different hand writings in it and no name was signed. Well, all that Jake, Wallie, and I have to say is that those who wrote it had lots of guts. They have a fine chance of going out with the girls that we were going out with. Wallie says those that wrote the letter haven't a chance to go out with his girl and Jake says the same of his, and I say that they haven't got a ghost of a show of going out with the girl I was going with and as for some addresses, we kindly wish, to politely inform the anonymous gentlemen, that we are not to be considered as an Information Bureau. Well, now to talk sense. There doesn't seem to be much to say. Yesterday which was Thursday, we had our examinations and of course I passed. Today or rather this morning we drilled and this afternoon we went on a hike. We covered about nine miles in two and one half hours. You asked about the duties I am supposed to perform. Well so far we have had it pretty soft, only attending telephone and signal school. We would drill for a little while each day. To day I did more drilling than I have done in the last two weeks. You ask when we are going away or rather leave Camp. Well nobody seems to know. We may be here a week and then again we may be here a month or more. If we do leave Camp I am quite sure that we go to Miniola, Long Island, N.Y. for further training and if we go across at all it wont be until April. Well I'm not worrying about when we go, the only thing that is worrying me is whether tomorrow is pay day or not. I heard it was. Anyway I'm not going to kick if it is tomorrow. You ask if I wrote to Uncle and to Mr. Holmfeld. Well, I started to write to both of them but to date have not finished the letters. While I remember to ask, I wish to know if you received the suit I sent home from the Barracks? I have always forgotten to ask about it.

Now to talk about the weather. In Camp it has been quite warm, warm enough to be uncomfortable. A strong wind has been blowing for the last two days and we are having a minature sand storm. I suppose it is pretty cold in Madison, from what you write You wrote something about Betty. Well Jake gave me a card that she put in his letter for me. If she comes to the house or calls up give her my best regards and tell her I will write her a letter some day. Well, I have much more to say so I will close my letter, also I must close because in less then two minutes there --- to be a boxing match and we were asked to quit writing. This is at the K.C. The boxing match is free, so I guess I will stay and watch it. I will write again tomorrow and send the pictures. With love and best regards From your loving Son Max



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Camp Mac Arthur
Jan. 12, 1918

Dear Folks:

I guess I'm up to my old tricks again. You know that in the letter I wrote, addressed to Marcus, I said I would write to you the next day, well it is just a day later than I expected to write. I got a letter from you this morning about 12 o'clock and was glad to hear from you. I got the letter and then went to dinner. After dinner I went to the tent and then came over to the K.C. It is now 2 o'clock. First of all I hope this letter finds you all well. Can safely say the same for myself. Now to start my letter and give you some more interesting news. Monday afternoon, January 7th we were told that we would go out to the trenches and stay 48 hours, but a little while later it was changed to 24 hours. We had an early supper and about 5:30 P.M. we left for the trenches. Monday afternoon it was quite warm and the distance to the trenches is a good four miles. The distance wouldn't bother very much if we hadn't had anything to carry, but we did and that made it difficult. Every man carried a pack. The soldiers used to carry a roll over their shoulders, but now the Government issued what is known as a Paprose Pack. The pack is carried on the back. The old men call it the man killer. The pack we carried weighed about fifty pounds beside we carried rifles, bayonets, cartridge belts and canteens full of water. This was not bad enough, so we had to wear our overcoats, and let me tell you that we sure did sweat. I suppose you think that we took our time going out. We did: (in a pigs ear). We reached the trenches at 6:45 P.M. That means that we were on the road 1 hour and fifteen minutes. If you know anything about walking you know then that four miles an hour is very good time for a man "without a pack", but we had "some packs" and it took us only 1 hours and fifteen minutes. So you can now imagined how we "switzed". Well it didn't hurt me any and I can stand it again. I wouldn't have minded it at all, but I had a son-of-a-gun of a headache and I didn't feel very much like hiking. When we got to where we were going to camp we pitched tents. Wallie and I were going to sleep together, but when we unpacked we found out that we had different shelter-halves and we couldn't pitch tents together. I got another partner, one of the cooks, and pitched with him. Wallie was out of luck and couldn't get anybody who had a shelter-half like his, so he had to sleep out in the open, and I've told you that it gets cold here at night. After the cook and I pitched our tent, we fixed the blankets ready to go to bed. I had two blankets, a poncho, and my overcoat, and the cook had three blankets, poncho, and an overcoat. So you see that we slept pretty warm. After we fixed the bed the cook went away to do a little work and I crawled in and went to bed, because my head was almost breaking from my headaches. I slept pretty good because it was warm underneath the blankets and also the tent was closed up good. The cook came in or rather crawled in about 10 o'clock and he woke me when he came in. I pulled up the side of the tent and looked out, but I pulled my head in faster than I put it out because I got a face full of sand. A strong wind was "bluzing" and there was a regular sandstorm. A good many of the tents were blown over, but mine still stood up. I fell asleep again and woke at six thirty when someone called the cook. The wind was blowing worst than ever. Not only the wind but the "zamth". Supposed to be Jewish. Every time you would open your "orgens" you would "hiib a punim fill mit zamth". Now don't think for a minute that I got up at six thirty when the cook crawled out I went right to "poofin" and slept till nine o'clock. I then got up and put my shoes on and went to see what I could "shmorce" from the cook for breakfast. He gave me something, but it was flavored with about a million dollars worth of "zamths". I ate it anyway. In the army we eat anything and it tastes good because our appites are so good. I took a piece of bread and put some syrup on it and got out in the wind to get out of the way of those working. When I went to take a bite of the bread I



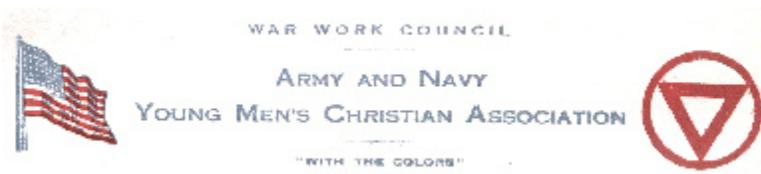
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thought the syrup was full of gold. But you know what it was. Zamth. Zamth was all it was. It tasted good with the bread and syrup. Anyway, I hung around the cook for a while and found out where there was a box of extra good "apples". I suppose you think the boxful was there when I left also. It was, except two overcoat pockets full, I hurried back to the tent and ate them. After I was through eating I thought I had better do a little work. I thought I might as well be in style. I decided I would face the south because the wind had shifted during the night and the sand was coming in the tent. The wind blew a regular gale and believe me it was some job fixing the tent. Finally I got the tent pitched the way I wanted it just as I got through one of the cooks helper asked me if I had a towel I told him I had. Seeing that I had nothing else to do I decided I would also wash. Not covered with a "soft" coating of that some old 'zamth'. Just a minute. I am going ahead a little too fast and left out a little detail. Right after I got up I heard the Sargeant call for the Signal "spitoon" to fall in. I found out that we were supposed to do a little "gruben" with a pick and shovel. The men were going to build a dug-out for some experience. Oh! My I'm just crazy about a pick and shovel, so I decided to make an excuse and not go along. I told the Sargeant that the cook wanted me to help him and ask if I could stay behind. The Sargeant said all-a-right. It was all-a-right and O.K. "mit me okhet". After this is when I started to change the position of the tent. Well I got as far as decidedly I was going to wash. I washed and then went to see what the cook was doing. I found out it was pretty near dinner time, so I ran to the tent and got my dishes. I saw that the bread had to be cut so I grabbed hold of a knife and started to cut some. By the time I cut five loafes, I saw that dinner would be ready in a minute, so I asked one of the fellows if he wanted to cut the bread for a while. He took the knife, I grabbed hold of my mess-kit and asked the cook to fill it up. There was a great big line waiting and I didn't feel like getting at the tail end. The cook filled the mess-kit up and I ran back and crawled in the tent to eat my dinner and to keep out of the wind and sand. We had weniess, sauer-kraut, bread, coffee, and canned peaches. After dinner, the Signal Platoon was called out again but I couldn't frame up an excuse so I had to go along. I didn't stay long though. The men worked in shifts. Five men in a shift and each one worked ten minutes at a time. After I was through with my turn. I had to get a drink of water and when I got a drink, I forgot that I had to go back and do some more work. I went over to see the cook again and got some weniess that were left from dinner. After I ate as much as I wanted I found my feet carrying me in the direction of my tent. The temptation was so strong that I crawled in and layed down. Gee, but it was nice and....

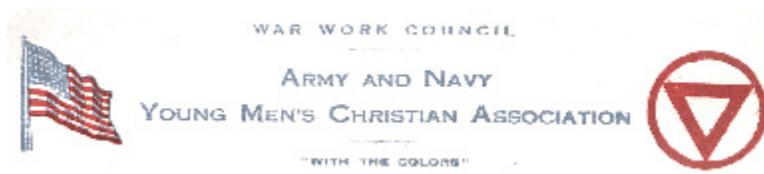
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Feb. 3, 1918

Dear Folks:-

Am keeping my promise and am writing today as I said I would I suppose you received my telegram sometime this morning. I thought I would surprise you a little so I send it. It sure is cheap enough. Fifty words for sixty-five cents. Pretty cheap isn't it? I suppose you received some letters from me before you got the telegram. I hope this letter finds you all well and in the best of health. For myself I will say that I am feeling fine. Remember the time I wrote and said that I weighted 140 lbs. Well I weighted myself in New York yesterday and I weighted 146 ½ lbs. That is a gain of about 6 ½ lbs in the last three weeks. I say that is going pretty good. What do you think? I believe the last time I wrote was Thursday so I will write what news there is to write since then. Friday morning we had to pass muster and then we went on a hike. We took a nice little hike and were gone about two hours. After we came back we did bunk fatigue the rest of the day. We sat around all day and there was nothing doing. As night they issued wooden socks. Each man got four pairs They are good heavy socks and sure will come in handy. Saturday morning I got up for reveille and then got my pass for New York. Wallie was supposed to go with me but he got in a hurry and went with another fellow that was going. I had to borrow some money and I left it to the last minute so while I was trying to get some he went away. I should worry I had a better time than he did. I went to one of the Lieutenants and got some money. I then took the bus to Genafly. At Genafly I took the street car to the Ferry. I got on the Ferry Boat and went across the river to Manhattan St. About three blocks from the ferry I got on the Subway. I rode as far as The Grand Central Depot. I got off and went over to Fifth Avenue. A walked down Fifth Ave until it hit Broadway. I stopped there and bought some postal cards. I then went down Broadway. I walked steady for two hours, taking in the sighted. I went in the Woolworth building and looked around. I didn't go to the top because they charge fifty five cents. After a while I got tired and hungry so I stopped to get something to eat. I eat dinner at the Oxford Restaurant on Broadway. I had a good dinner and was ready to do some more walking. I walked around for - awhile and decided to take a ride on the Subway. I got on the cars and rode as far as 110th St. I got on another car and came back the way I had come. I rode as far as 42nd St. and then got off. I stood on the platform and pretty soon a car came along that said Brooklyn Bridge on it. I decided to get on and see if I couldn't go on the Bridge. I got off as the Brooklyn Bridge Station and walked through the subway to the street and sure enough there was the Brooklyn Bridge. I walked across the bridge and it was a nice little walk. You can have no idea of how large the bridge is. On each side there is a road for traffic and street cars and in the center is two tracks for the Subway cars. The Bridge starts by the Subway and goes over lots of buildings and then across the river and over buildings in Brooklyn and ends at the Brooklyn Subway. There were lots of ship in the river when I went over. The bridge is way up in the air so it sure was cold walking across. I walked around the Brooklyn Subway Station and then took the cars for New York. I got off at 42nd St and went over to Broadway. I walked down Broadway until I got to the Telegraph office. When I went by it I decided I would send a telegram so I went back. I sent the telegram about 7:30 P.M. I told you in the message that I was going to the Hippodrome. Well I did. I had bought a triket in the afternoon and got a good seat in the Second Balcony. The name of the play was Cheer Up. And I want to say it was the most wonderful show I ever saw. The Hippodrome is a vaudeville theatre and there was some wonderful scenery. In the whole cast there must have been about 150 men and women. In one act they had a big locomotive, coal tinder and a box car on the stage. In another act they had a regular lake on the stage with rowboats in it and diving towers and spring boards. They had some good diving and stunts in this act! Some wonderful and extraordinary was the National Parade. It was too wonderful for me to describe it. The show lasted three hours and was certainly worth every cent I paid to see it.



After the show I met a fellow from the 126th Infantry and we walked around together. We met two pretty Jeddish "mad-els" and took them home. We had some ride on the Subway too because they lived way out in Brooklyn it was after two by the time we got there and you can imagine what time we got back to Camp. I got back to Camp at 7:30 A.M and wanted to go up stairs when I noticed a sign on the door. Our Barracks is under quarantine for measles, so I suppose they will keep us in for about two weeks. One of the fellows was taken to the Hospital with the Measles last week and now they wake up and put us under quarantine I don't mind it because we dont have to do anything but loaf. I got up at 9:30 and it is 5:30 now and I havent even dressed yet. I am laying on Wallie cot writing this letter in my underwear. Well the whistle just blew for supper so I have to dress and get something to eat. Well supper is over and I am going to finish this letter. There is nothing to do but read and sing. We can't go to the Y.M.C.A. or any place else. I dont blieve I told you that I received two letters from you. One was dated the 21st and the other the 25th. The one from the 21st was supposed to be from Marcus + Rose but they were both in the same hand writing and I doubt if either Marcus or Rose wrote it at all. I can excuse Rose because she has blood poison in her finger, but Marcus won't hear from me until he sends me a regular letter. I know I sent him the Signal Codes and some information about them, also, everytime I write I send a few lines in the code but does he ever answer? No, at least I never got an answer from him. I hope Rose's finger is alright by this time and that she is able to write. I got some postal cards and will send them in this letter. I notice in your letter that you say that I sent the policy home. Well I didnt send it home. When I wrote it out they asked one where I want it sent to and I told them to send it home. Probably they haven't sent it yet. Ill say it was about time that that letter should come from Jefferson Brks. Did you ever get the letter back with the dollar in it. You wrote about the allotment. I suppose you ought to get it pretty soon. You seem to be worrying about getting mail from me. Well before we leave you will have a wagon load of letters yet, so don't worry about mail. You ask if I need anything in the line of clothing and underwear. I dont need anything that I know of. See if you think I do. Here is what I have that I know of

2 pr. Hobnail Shoes

2 pr. Russet Shoes

6 " Light Weight Wool Socks

5 " Heavy " " "

3 suits Woolen Underwear

2 Woolen Uniforms

3 Woolen Shirts

2 pr leggings

1 hat

about 15 handerchiefs

4 towel, 3 issue and one Turkish

2 Razors

1 shaving Brush

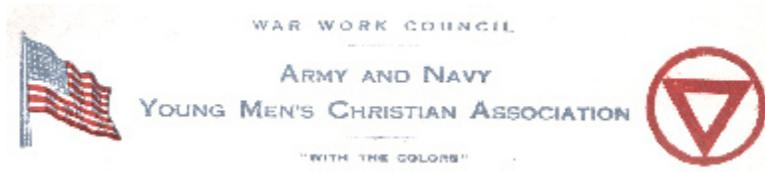
1 tube and one cake shaving soap

2 tubes tooth paste

1 tooth brush

2 cans powder

2 combs



- 1 hair brush
- 1 trench mirror
- 2 pipes
- 1 cigarette case
- 1 Wrist Watch
- 2 cakes soap Face
- 1 cake Washing Soap
- 1 pair Woolen Gloves
- 3 blankets
- 1 poncho
- 1 shelter half
- 1 bed ticks
- 1 overcoat
- 1 mess kit and implements (cup, spoon, knife, fork)
- 1 canon, (I mean rifle)
- 1 pack
- 1 meat can
- 1 acondamon can
- 6 pair shoestring
- 3 pr legging laces
- 1 tent pole
- 5 tent pins
- 1 set side arms and bayonet
- 1 canteen
- 1 canteen
- 1 barracks bag
- 1 first aid packet
- ½ fountain pen
- 1 sweater

This is about all I remember and even at that I think I have enough of a load. We will get more stuff in a little while. We are going to get a trench hat, helmet (woolen) sweater and I don't know what else.

This is about all that I have to write for this time so I will close with
love and Best regards to all
From you loving
Son & Brother
Max



Somewhere in England
March 14, 1918

Dear Folks:

It is now quite a while since you heard from me and I suppose it will take quite a time before this letter reaches you. I hope this letter finds you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling pretty fair considering that we just got through with our trip across the ocean. I believe I wrote to you the day before we left so you can just about know the day we left Camp. I believe the censors would scratch out the date if I wrote it so I am going to take no chance in writing it. We are told to be very careful of what we write because the letters are censored on account of the censorship it is hard to write an interesting letter because all the news must be kept quite. In order to write a fair sized letter to you I will have to recall things that happened at Camp before we left. I suppose that quite a bunch of letters you sent to me are at Camp now or most probably are being forwarded to France. I don't remember what I wrote to you in my last letter so I want to ask you whether I told you that I got the book and toothbrush you sent to me. Also did I tell you that I got a package from a boy going to the Madison High School? I had started a letter to him to thank him for the package but I didn't get a chance to finish it so I will have to do that sometime today or tomorrow. I supposed while I am writing this letter you are still in bed sleeping but it is now 11:00A.M. here, and at home I supposed it is about 4:50A.M. Well to go ahead with the letter. The day before we left Camp I got a little letter from Uncle. Harry wrote it, so I believe you know that there was no news in it. But just the same I will answer it as soon as possible. The night before we left Camp we got paid! I didn't get much as you know but I increase it quite a bit, probably I will tell you how in the next few lives. I got paid \$8.48 for the last month. I owe \$7 to one of our Lieutenants but couldn't find him to pay it back to him. I asked for him on the boat but was told that he wasn't with us on account of being left in charge of the Casual Camp. If he ever comes across I will look him up and pay my debt. I though I would go across the ocean poor, but at the present time I have over \$31 cash, Jake owes me \$8 and I lent a dollar to one of the fellows. That make me worth about \$40. That isn't so bad? Is it? By the way, Jake and Wallie aren't with me at this Camp but maybe in a day or two I will tell you why later on in my letter. I suppose you are anxious to know how I got so rich! I guess you have it figure out yourself by this time. Well I did a little gambling and was lucky. I made \$15 the night before we left Camp. I went on the boat with about \$25. While on the boat I spent about \$5 for candy. We sure did spend money for candy on the boat. I owed about \$2 to some fellows so I paid them. We did some gambling on the boat but I won and loss right along until the last night on the boat. I made about \$20. This is why I am worth about \$40 now. The morning we left Camp we were called at 3:30A.M. but didn't leave until about 7:00A.M. We marched to the depot and took the train to the point of embarkation. We marched through the town to the boat pier and got on the ship. Gee it was some boat. The biggest one I ever saw. Before we got on the boat the Red Cross Women gave us coffee and biscuits. They surely are doing some wonderful work. We were on the boat a day before we sailed we had some trip across the Ocean. We are told that we were lucky in getting so good a ship to come across in. We had more than enough to eat and there weren't many sea sick. I was sick for one half a day. I just got a touch of it but that was more than I cared for. Sea sickness sure is awful. A person doesn't care whether the boat sinks or not, in fact, he would rather it would sink according to the way he feels. As I said before I just got a touch of it, but I know what it is like. The trip took --- days and I got off the boat the --- day. Wallie and Jake on still in it I believe. I wonder if the censors will scratch these few lines out. No one seems to know whether it is all right to write this or not. The reason I got off the boat was that forty



of our company was put on baggage detail. The boat was at dock all night before we got off. We were sitting around on the ship all morning doing nothing. Someway there was a mistake and some other bunch did our work. At 12 o'clock we were put on trains with the rest of the detail company and sent to the Camp where we now are. The railroad sure are peculiar in England. They have little bits of engines and cars. The freight or box cars only hold six tons. The coaches are divided into compartments. Five compartments to a coach. Eight persons to each compartment. We thought that there wasn't any speed to the train but we thought didn't after we got on and rode for a while. They sure can ramble along. We passed through a great many large sized towns on the way. England seems to be a very pretty country that is what I have seen of it. Every thing is so neat and clean. I was surprised to see green grass and all along the fields were just as green as could be. Another thing that surprised me was the number of women that were working and the kinds of the work they did. Most of it was real labor too. Can you imagine girls and women shoveling coal off coal cars, working on the sections a railroad, driving teams, working in fields and in different kinds of factories? Well they do and I saw them work as we passed by on the train. Another thing is that all the small boys work. They are messenger boys. Boys that work for the railroad some drive wagons and carts and there are lots of other things that take to much time to write. Every body seems to be doing some thing. When we got off the boat we were given an orange, a piece of cake, and two sandwiches by some Red Cross Women. After our trip on the train was about 2/3 over we got out at a station and were given a sandwich and a cup of coffee by the Red Cross women. I bought some postal cards at the station and am going to send them separate. I also bought a folder at a station and will send it along with the postals. We got to the end of our journey at 8:55 P.M. and took a nice long hike to our Camp. We seen a good many British soldiers and also a great many American soldiers. In fact ours is an American Camp. I spoke to quite a few boys who were on the Lusitania when she was sunk. They are waiting for new equipment because theirs was all lost with the boat. Our ship brought over new equipment so I guess they will be outfitted again in a few days. I hope the rest of our company gets here today so that we can all be together again. Our bunch is with the Artillery. I believe we only will be in their barracks until the rest of our company gets here. I suppose you will know that I arrived safe about two weeks before you get this letter. After we got on the boat cards were issued in the mess hall on which you wrote your name and dropped the card in the mail box. The cards were to be mailed after our boat arrived safe in Europe. They told of safe arrival overseas. They were left at the point of embarkation. I had a headache before I got on the boat so I layed down on my bunk, so I didn't get a card. Wallie and Jake left cards so undoubtedly you found out from Beakly or Jake's folks about our safe arrival. I was going to send a cablegram. There is only a little more to be written so I will write it and finish this letter. It is now 1:25 P.M. and I haven't had dinner yet. I don't even know what time they serve dinner but I believe it is late because we didn't get breakfast until 10 o'clock. One thing that is a joke around here is when we want to buy and pay for something. We haven't changed our money yet but the people take American money. All except pennies. An English penny is worth two of ours. When we buy something we usually get English money in change so when we buy something again we are told the price but don't know what to give so we lay down a handfull of change and say "take out what you want!" Oh! We're reckless, we are, what do we care for a few pennies. I'm going to get a couple of half pennies and pennies and put them in the letter for Rose and Marcus. I just went up and got some coins. These are the only small kind they have at the Y.M.C.A. I mean of small donations. I got two small coins and one large one for a jitney. Well, no more jitneys and two bits and bucks for a while to come. It's pence and shilling now and then francs when we get to France. I am sending 2 large and two small coins for Rose and Marcus. Later on I will get a bunch of smaller coins and send them home. The Y.M.C.A. man told me that he will get a bunch of souvenirs when he goes to a bank. It is so long

Letter #16

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since I wrote that I am forgetting how to spell. Well this seems to be all I have to write for this time so I close with love and kisses to all,

From your loving son and brother,

Max

P.S. Don't forget and write every day and I will try my best to do the same. Tell Rose and Marcus to write also. The way it is in order to get an answer is to a letter will require at least a month so if we both write every day our letters will be up to date because we will be getting one everyday. The only address that I know for you to write it A.E.F. Cont. write, "via New York" after the A.E.F.



"WITH THE COLORS"



"Somewhere in England"

March 22, 1918

Dear Folks:-

I broke my promise of writing to you every day, but it cant be helped, because there isnt enough to write each day to make it worth while writing. By this, I do not mean that there isnt any news to write, because there is enough to keep me writing steady for at least two weeks. You remember the regular "books" I used to send from Texas and New Jersey well, I could write at least a dozen of them now. But circumstances make it impossible for me to do so on account of the censoring of the mails. Maybe later on I will be allowed to write some of the news and also the place where our camp is located. I hope that by this time you have received the letter and post cards I sent last week. Did you get them alright? I hope so! First of all before I write any more on this letter I hope it will find you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am getting along pretty fair. Have you heard from Uncle lately? If so, how is he getting along? I suppose you remember that I said that I would write to him the day after I wrote to you but I didnt. Most likely I will do so within the next few days. Well I'm going to try and make this letter like one of my old ones so I will start way back to the day after I wrote the last letter and give you as much news as I think I am allowed to write. First of all I want to ask you if Jake's mother or Wally's brother told you that they got the cards Jake and Wally sent telling of their safe arrival overseas. Did they receive the cards alright? How are things coming along in Madison? How is the weather? The country where we are surely looks beautiful. The grass is green everywhere and the truck gardens are coming up pretty good. The weather here is just ideal. It is cool in the morning and nice and warm in the afternoon. The sun shines bright all afternoon and the sky Larks sing all the time. As I walk along or sit down somewhere in the open I often wonder how things are at home. It seems to me that I have forgotten how the weather is at home in the spring time. Well now to go back to the letter and write some of the news I said I would write. The last letter I sent was written on the 14th and the post cards were sent the 15th. In the letter I said that Wallie and Jake were'nt here yet. Well they came in about midnight Thursday and I saw them Friday. They were put in a different barracks about five blocks from my barracks. The latter part of last week the company was put in different barracks We were divided into three sections because the company was divided on the ship but now we have been put in barracks and most of the company is together. Wally, Jake and myself are in the same barracks. Wally sleeps in the bunk next to me on the right and Jake next to me on the left This is the first time that we have all been together since we enlisted in the army

March 27, 1918

Dear Folks,

I went back to one of my old tricks again and didnt finish this letter as I meant to have done the day I started it. Since I started this letter quite a few things and changes have taken place. I shall tell you about them later on in the letter. Now I'm going back to where I left off and finish this letter by telling you some news.

The last I told you about was that Wally, Jake and myself were together in the same barracks. Nothing happened outside of the ordinary until Saturday, except that there were rumors of Headquarters Co. being left behind to take charge of the Camp. The Americans are going to take charge of the camp the first of April and about five hundred men are being kept here. All the privates of our company are going to stay here. The is different kinds of work to be done and I suppose it will be given to us soon. A few of our men are on Military Police duty and some have applied for jobs as truck drivers. I dont know what kind of work the rest of us will be given. It does seem queer that we are so close to the trenches and actual fields of battle and yet we may never see them. I believe we are to take charge of the camp until the war is over. Things



"WITH THE COLORS"



are pretty dead around here now but in a few days we will be issued passes to go to the city and then we can have a little pleasure at least once in a while. Last Saturday we went to the depot and got our barracks and Squad Bags so we have all our clothes now. Yesterday which was Sunday we had to do some moving again. All the fellows that are going to stay in this Camp are put together. We had to pack all our stuff again just after we had unpacked it and then we had to roll our pack. This time we moved about a mile from where we were. I was sorry we moved because Wally, Jake, and myself got split up again. Wally and Jake are together, but I got put in a barracks two streets away. We went out for a walk last night because that is all there is to do here on Sunday. Other days the Y.M.C.A.'s are open. Tell Beaky and the rest of his "gang" that I was out with a little English girl yesterday forenoon and part of the afternoon. I wont tell you about Wally because he may get in bad with his "wife". Tell them also that I would rather have one American girl than a car load of English girls. One thing good about them is that they all have rosy cheeks, both men and women, young and old. One thing that I have almost mastered is the talk of the English. Their expressions are so peculiar to us and they seem to talk very fast and their accents are different from ours. This covers everything up to date except something that I will write about later, maybe tomorrow. That something is about about my visit to the city last week. I am going to end this letter because I want to go and meet Wally and Jake. I am going to send my new address on the envelope.

Closing with Love and kisses to all

I remain your loving son

and brother,

Max

Letter #18

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Camp Morn Hill,
Winchester, England
April 4, 1918

Dear Folks:

I have wanted to write for the last week but never got the chance to do so until today, so I am going to make the best of the opportunity. I have been busy all week so I couldn't find time to write. I am staying in the office to-night for the office orderly and seeing a typewriter in the place I decided to typewrite a letter home. It's been so many months since I touched a typewriter, so I expect you will find this letter full of mistakes, but I believe you will be able to read it without much trouble. Before I go any further with this letter I hope that it will find you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can easily say the same. Now comes the hardest part of writing a letter, and that is where and what to start with. I have so much to write that I don't know what to say first. I wish now that I had wrote more often so I wouldn't have to waste so much time trying to figure out what I should write first and what to write next. Seeing that I have so much to say I will start way back to the time I wrote the last letter and tell you as I remember. I believe the last time I wrote I said that I would tell you about my visit to Winchester. Well I'm going to do that and also tell you other things, besides telling you of my second visit to the city. ¶ I forgot the date that I wrote the last letter. Now come to think about it I am pretty sure that I wrote the 27th of March. Since that time things seem to be going the same way except for a few changes. One day seems to be the same as the next. There has been nothing to do except a few details and so forth and the rest of the time is spent in loafing. ¶ The officers started to give the men a little drill the other day but I do not know whether they still drill them or not. A good share of the men have already been picked for the permanent details and they seem to be picking out more men each day. I got on permanent duty this last Monday and will tell you about it latter on in the letter. Wally and Jake are still without any permanent detail but may get called on anyday. At present they do whatever they are told to do by their barracks leader and the rest of the time is spent in loafing. Wally would like to get on the same detail with me but I have asked and found out that there is no chance to do so. Some of the details the men are on are, working in the office as typists and clerks; motor truck drivers, motor-cycle drivers; and, a bunch of men were sent to cooking school to learn how to cook. Most likely I might have got a chance to get in the office as a typist but I hated to go up and put my name in because I was out of practice. The other day they wanted five stenographers and typists to go to Liverpool to work but I didn't hand my name in. I might have taken a chance as a typist but I believe I would have to practice quite a bit before I would be able to come back and take dictation in shorthand at a fair rate of speed. ¶ I am satisfied with the work I am doing now. I am on permanent detail at the hospital. Although it is not what I would like to do, still I am satisfied because there are lots of jobs that are worse. One good thing about working at the hospital is that we get much better "grub" than the other fellows who are on other details. At the hospital we get good meals and we can have all we can eat, while the other fellows only get so much and what they get is no wheres as good as ours. I have found out that there are a great many things that I can write now that where we were forbidden to write before. One of the things I am going to tell you about is the eats we were getting before I got on permanent detail at the hospital. The meals are the English field rations and are the same as are given the English soldiers in the trenches. Here is the menu for the three meals: for breakfast we have two slices of bread, some days we get a piece of ham and some days we get a piece of sow-belly, we also get some O.D. water; (I suppose you know that O.D. stands for Olive Drab which is a brown color). Some of the fellows claim that they have the formula for making the O.D. water or coffee as it is called. Here it is; about forty gallons of water in the kettles, then take a coffee bean and bore a hole in it and tie a string to it, then drop the bean in the kettles of water and pull it through several times and the coffee is done. The biggest meal we have is dinner and here is what we always get; one slice of bread, one spud, (if there are any left over we get two), some meat that the fellows claim is horse meat but it doesn't make any difference because it performs the same action as beef, and a cup of water if we want it, also we get some rice that the fellows claim is nothing like Mother use to make. Now comes supper and it seems to taste the best of all. We get two slices of bread, about a cents worth of cheese and seven men divide up a can of jam that is about as big as a can that Condensed Milk is sold in, also we get some O.D. water. Well I have given you the menu, what do you think about it? We get this day after day but after a person gets used to it he is alright, but we hated very much to get use to it. ¶ I eat

Letter #18

Page 2

dinner and supper at the hospital and surely find them much different that what I have been getting for the last three weeks. The first day I ate dinner there I thought that I had either gone to heaven or was dreaming when I saw the grub that they were dishing out to us and the best part of it was that if we didn't get enough the first time we could go up for seconds and even thirds. You know that I am no slouch when it comes to eating so I always go up for seconds and see that I get enough to eat. Here is what we had the first day for dinner: some good beef, potatoes, bread, coffe (real coffee) some fine green peas and some sago pudding with sugar in it. I might as well tell you what we had for supper while I'm at it. We had some "real" Irish stew, bread, butter, jam, and coffee. I'll say that there is quite a bit of difference in the two meals. What do you say? A hard question to have me answer is, to ask me where I would rather eat; at the barracks or at the hospital. ¶ Now to tell you about the work I do at the hospital. I am on what is called the Sanitary Detail. We take care of the bathhouses and latrines, that is we sweep them out every morning, sweep the sidewalks around the wards and pick up the papers around the buildings. If there is any other odd jobs we also do them, such as helping unload trucks that bring things to the warehouses. We keep Union hours on this detail. We go to work at 9A.M. and quit at 4P.M. We eat supper at five o'clock and then go back to our barracks. Most likely we will move over to the hospital in a short while because at present there is no room to give the detail for sleeping quarters. This is about all that I know to tell you bout the work I am doing. If you remember I wrote in my last letter that I have just got through moving, well I had to move again Tuesday because most of fellows in my barracks were sent to cooking school and there were only five of us left and the officers decided that they couldn't very well keep a barrack going for just five men so we had to move. Some of the men in Wally's barracks were also sent to cooking school so I moved into their barracks. Now we are all together again and I wo nder how long it will stay this way. This about all I have to write about Camp news so I will have to hurry and tell you about my trips to the city of Winchester. ¶ It is now about 9:45 and I expect the First Sgt. in at any moment and when he comes I go back to the barracks. If I don't finish this letter on the typewriter I will have to do so in pencil or pen. I am going to tell you about my first trip to the city. The second day I was in this camp we went on a hike and walked through the city. The next time we went on another hike our officer got permission to take us through the Winchester Cathedral and the Great Hall. In the Cathedral we saw tombs of great men and bishops that were buried hundreds of years ago. The Catherderal was built in the year 1000, by the Romans when Caesar invaded Great Britan or rather the British Isles. The building is quite well preserved in spite of its age. The Great Hall Is the place where former kings took refuge in case their palace was in danger of being attacked. In this hall is also hung on the wall the Original King Arthur's Round Table with the names of the knights that sat at the original table. I bought A little book from the caretaker. The book tells about the Great Hall and when it was built. If I can get a large envelope I will sent the book along with this letter. Last Sunday was Easter Sunday I got a pass to go to the city again. Wally and Jake also got a pass so we went together. Our pass was from six to ten thirty P.M. We went down and walked around and found the town quite interesting. Monday I got another pass and went down with another fellow. We went out with some English girls and had a good time. One thing that spoils a fellows time is that there is a curfew in Winchester at 9:30P.M. and all the girls have to be in at that time. I am going to ask the first Sgt. for a pass for tomorrow and go to town and try and take in the show that they have there. ¶ I wish we would get paid soon. We were supposed to have gotten paid last Tuesday but we didn't and may not get paid until the end of this week or the first part of next week. I am not broke yet but I would'nt mind getting paid. This is about all the news A have to write and there is'nt no wheres near as much as I had intended to write. We have a new address now although we are still at the same place. Here it is: Casual Co. No. 2, A. R. C., Winchester, England. Did you write the answer to my first letter A. E. F.? If you did I suppose it will take a while yet before it reaches me. Well the Sgt. is here so I will have to quite and say good night. With Love and Kisses I remain Your

Loving son and brother

Max

Best regards and kisses to Marcus and Rose. Tell them to write

Best regards from Wally and Jake.



Camp Winnal Down

Winchester, Eng

April 25, 1918

Dear Folks:

It is so long a time since I wrote to you that I really am ashamed of myself for not writing sooner, but I will try to make up for the delay, in this letter. First of all I hope this letter finds you all well and in the best of health. I can easily say that I am feeling fine and enjoy every nice day that goes by. We have been having some real sunny weather the last few days and I sure do enjoy them. The sun was shining full blast today and it was fairly warm about five thirty we had a little rain, but it only lasted a few minutes. The trouble with the England weather is that it cant be forecasted. If you take your overcoat out in the morning when it is cold or your raincoat when it is wet outside, the sun is sure to come up and make a nice day of it. But if you should happen to go out without your overcoat or raincoat it is sure to get cold or rain.

April 27, 1918

Dear Folks:

Couldn't get time to finish this letter before but will try my best to do so tonight. I was quite busy yesterday and in the evening Wally and I went to Winchester for a good time and I'll say that we sure did have a good time. Wally and I had a date with some English girls. (real girls what I mean.) I had been out with the one I go out with before, but I brought Wally along to go with her friend. Wally and I were going out regular with two other girls and found them quite interesting. We went out with them about five times and had some good times. We have a date with them for tomorrow (that is they expect us to come down and see them) but I dont think we will go down and see them because we have a date with the girls we were out with Friday. Both the girls I go out with are real cute and classy so it doesnt matter much to me which one I go out with. The only way I can see to get out of difficulties with the both of them is to go out one time with one of them and the next time with the other. I would like to have Wally write and tell you what he thinks of his English "Janes" but that is impossible. And I suppose you know the reason why. See, can hardly wait, until 6:30P.M. tomorrow when Ill see my friend again. If some of the fellows at home could see her they would feel just about the same about it as I do. My friend's first name is Eva, I also know her second name but that wouldnt do you any good. Also the other girl I go out with has Eva for her first name. Another peculiar thing is that the first name of the girl Wally went out with yesterday is Eva. Two Eva's chuming together One thing that I have found out, is that If I should happen to want another cute little girl I would ask for one by the name of Eva. I figure it out that if three Eva's are cute girls the fourth surely ought to be the same. Well, so much for the girls but just the same I still wish that it would be about 6:30P.M. Sunday. Now to try and write some of the things that have happen since I wrote the last time. I forget the date I wrote last, but it was a good two weeks ago. The last time I wrote I sent a couple of post card folios of Winchester and put a letter in the envelope along with them. Last week I got the cards back again with a note saying that they couldnt be mailed. I suppose you will wonder where the cards are when you read the letter. Well I still have them and maybe someday I will be able to send them. I had been working steady on the detail at the hospital until about ten days ago when we were relieved of the detail Wally worked with me for about a week. About the most interesting day of this month was April 17, which was payday. I had been telling you that we would get paid early in the month but that wasnt the case. We were expecting to get paid between the 1st of April and the 5th but were glad enough when we got our money the 17th. I drew 2 pounds and 7 shillings and 5 pence. Altogether that made about \$11.40 in American money. I collected in most of the money I had coming



in and let out quite a bit more. I will have over three pounds coming this next pay beside what I draw from the Government. This last Monday the whole Casual Company was divided up and given permanent jobs. A good many were sent to another camp to the Cookery School Thirty of us were given officers orderly jobs. That is we are in charge of the officers quarters, (their rooms.) There are two men to each hut. There are eight rooms in each hut and are supposed to be occupied by sixteen officers. At present there are no officers in my hut. When the next bunch of troops come in I suppose my hut will be full. Wally has seven officers in his hut. Wally and Jake have charge of another hut and I and a boy from Sheboygan have charge of another next door to Wally and Jake. My chum's name is Joseph Fuerst and he is a pretty good kid. He is also a stenographer and typist and had been working in the office until about two weeks ago. There was too much work so he quit because he thought we would get enough typewriting when he got back to civilian life. We have a fine job so far and our room is just about as cosy as a real home (still it is lacking quite a few important being and things.). We have a nice large room with two cots and real mattresses. Also two chairs, a large table, a big stove and have hot water all the time. We can wash and bathe whenever we want to. Also we have electric lights. It is easy to keep our "home" neat and clean because there are only two of us to dirty it. I believe I am going to like this job pretty well. This (last) week I have been to Winchester three time already. Monday Wednesday and Friday and am going again tomorrow. I am going to get my permanent pass tomorrow, so is Wally. Jake got his tonight and went to town with my partner. Jake is getting along the same as usual and doesn't care what happens. I might as well send you his regards even though he isn't here now. I know he would want me to send them if he were here. The "kid" Wally is hitting on all four and is going "daffy" over the English girls. Jake calls Wally "kid" and then there is sure to be an argument about which one of them is the kid. Jake wont admit that he is the "kid" and not Wally. Well they've got to do something for excitement. Sometimes I joined in on one side or the other. Mostly the winning side, though A week ago Wednesday Wally and I had our pictures taken and we got them yesterday. They sure are some real photos. In fact they are the best I have ever had taken. I only got a half dozen but if I need more I can get some more made. I have already given one to my "friend" so I have only five left. I will send a couple home either with this letter or by registered mail. Now talking about photos. I want to ask you if you had your pictures taken as you said you would. If you have't already sent them I wish you would do so sometime in the near future. Also send a picture of "Boish" because I want to have pictures of the whole family. This is about enough for pictures. When I went to town yesterday I stopped in a Jewelry store with Wally and bought Rose a little present. If you remember I told her I would get her a present if she wrote. So far I have't had any mail from no one but expect some soon. I will send Rose's present by registered mail and hope that it will arrive safely. I also hope that you are getting my letters. This seems about all the news I have to write in this letter. I am writing this letter in Wally's room. I am visiting him because he has to stay in his hut in case the officers should call for something. It is now 10:35P.M. and Jake and my chum havent come home yet. Just as soon as I finish this letter I am going to go to my hut and go to bed. The lights go out as elven o'clock and I still have my bed to make. Now to ask a few questions and then end this letter. How are things coming along in Madison? How is the weather? Is Pa working and if so, how is his business coming along? I hope it has improved a great deal since I heard from you last. Now about the allotement I made. Have you received any since you wrote to me the last time? I hope you did? How is Rose and Marcus getting along? Do they write to me? I hope so at least? Have you heard from Uncle lately? I have't wrote to him yet but will send him a photo and a letter in a few days? Do you ever hear from Mr. Hohlfeld? If so what does he say? Well this is all the questions I have to ask so I will close my letter with love and kisses to all

From your

Loving Son

Letter #19
Page 3



Max

Best regard from Wally, Jake and my chum Joe.

Casual Co. No. 2

Winchester

Eng.



On Active Service
WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

St. Aignon, July 5, 1918

Dear Folks,

It is quite a while since I wrote last but I will try and make up for that in this letter. The date of my last letter was June 28. I wrote it while on Guard and when I finished it I put it in my pocket and there it remained until today. I am going to mail it when I mail this letter since I wrote last. I have changed the location of my residence or rather, cha-teau and have a new position. I will tell you about them later on in my letter.

I hope this letter finds you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling pretty fair except for a little cough. Since the 28th of June quite a little news has accumulated in my memory and I'll try to give you as much as I can recall.

I got through with guard duty at 3: PM and then had the rest of the afternoon to myself. I didn't really have much of the time to myself because it was 4:30 P.M. by the time I got to the company street and then I had to wash and clean-up a little and by that time it was supper-time. During the evening I had to stay on the company street. The reason for this was that I didn't get up for reveille Friday morning. I wasn't the only one, and all those who missed that formation were sentenced to stay in camp from Friday until Monday. I went up and spoke to the officer and told him a hard luck story about being in the Kitchen ever since we arrived in Selles-sur-cher. (that is the name of the town) and that I didn't get a chance to go to town. He took pity on me. (poor boy) and said I could go off the street Saturday afternoon. Saturday morning we had a little inspection and then had the rest of the day off. In the afternoon I went swimming. Had a pretty fair swimming, considering that in no place is the water more than four feet deep. On the way back I nearly took another bath. In fact, I got part of one. I'll tell you about it just to fill up paper and to write a little more news. I was walking along the Canal with another boy who had been swimming and we saw a canal boat coming along. The canal is about twenty-five feet wide and the boat was coming right down the middle of the stream. My friend said "Let's get on". I said "alright", but the boat didn't come much closer to the shore. I said to him, (when it came a little closer to shore) "Let's jump it," It was only between five and six feet but he wouldn't do it. I said, "It's easy but he wouldn't take a chance. I kidded him for awhile so he dared me to make the jump. I, like a kid took the dare and tried to make the jump. The results were that I didn't jump far enough and that I got "soak and wet". I was close to the boat so I climbed up in it and got a little ride anyway. The boat stopped and I got off on the opposite side of the canal, while my friend was on the other side laughing. It wasn't bad enough that I got a ducking but I had to take a nice long walk to a bridge in order to get back on the other side of the canal. While walking to the bridge, my clothes dripping wet, I noticed two officers coming along the path, Both had an extra large smile about their features and for me, the reason was easy to comprehend. In French we say "compre". One of the officers stopped me and asked "Been in the Canal," I couldn't keep from laughing the way he said it, and he "only" was a general. I straightened up and told him what I had been up too. He smiled and then went on his way. He sure seemed to be a fine old gentlemen. You could tell he was a kid himself once upon a time. Well, I finally got to my pal and we then went back to our billet or barrack. In the evening I went out for a walk with one of the boy and saw some pretty country scenes. France sure is a beautiful country. Sunday morning I found out that I was transferred to the Signal School and was to leave for St. Aignon the next day. I had been expected to go for a week as I told you in my last letter. I spent Sunday around the camp and in packing up. Monday morning came around and I was still hanging around in Selles-sur-cher waiting to be sent to St. Aignon. During the morning the company signed the payroll. All except those that were transferred. After dinner I went swimming because I decided we wouldn't leave that day. Monday was the first day of a new month and was Rose's birthday. Did she have a good time? I wished her all the good luck in the world. Did she get that locket and handkerchief yet? Did Leo get the belt? I suppose they were late in getting there. Well Tuesday morning, after breakfast, an auto truck



On Active Service
WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

came and those that had been transferred piled in. There were only five of us and we left for the Base Signal School. Now that I'm through telling about being in camp at Selles-sur-Cher, I may as well tell you a little about the town and the location of our camp. First of all our camp was located about four blocks from the main part of the town. In these four blocks, we had to cross a canal and a river. I don't know whether they had a name for the Canal or not and I'm not sure of the name of the river. I believe it is called the Cher River. The town is small and contains a great many old buildings. In fact, they old seem to have been build when Christ was born. It seems as though the French people take pride in their old buildings as they do not build new ones. The French on the whole are a very neat and good-hearted people and think a whole lot of the Americans and their abilities to do things and do them right. While in Selles-sur-Cher, I picked up a few French phrases and words but would like to learn a while lot more, as a person feels ignorant, when he can't answer when he's spoken too. Well, so much for Selles-sur-Cher.

Our auto trip took only about twenty to twenty five minutes, because we only had about ten miles to travel. We reached our destination and reported to the office and were assigned to barracks.

It's getting pretty dark now as it is quite late, about nine thirty and I writing this letter out of doors, so I will go upstairs and write somemore on this letter by candlelight.

Well, the candle's lit and I'm prepared to write somemore on this letter before taps sounds. After we put our packs away we went back to the office and answered a few questions. I was assigned to the Radio or Wireless class. Our course is supposed to take six weeks and then if we pass we get sent to the front as telegraphers. The work is all work where a person has to use his head and has no time to fool away.

July 6

Dear Folks,

I didn't get time to work on this letter this morning so I am going to try and finish it before the day is over. It is now about 4 P.M. and there is no school this afternoon, because we have Saturday afternoon off. I drew some clothes today so spent most of the afternoon in changing clothes and in dressing up. Now I going to try and finish this letter by supper time which is 6:30 P.M.

I'm going to start where I left off last night and give you all the news up to the present time. I was talking about Radio requiring head work and patience. As close as I can tell at present my course consists of batterys dry and wet cells, buzzer work, which is on the same principle as the telegraph key, stringing the wires for setting up the wireless apparatus and to be able to repare a wireless instrument. Not only that but to be able to receive at least fifteen words a minute before the course is over. I heard that if a person can receive fifteen or more words a minute, he is qualify as an operator and if he only can get ten he is only an assistant. Well, I'm going to boast a little and say that I going to be a good operator. As least that's my idea. I've only been here since Tuesday and can receive from six to eight words a minute and if my cranium is in good working order I can get ten words a minute if I improve at least two words a week during the course I ought to be able to get at least twenty words a minute without trouble. As I said before, those that make the course go to the front as telegraphers or radio operators. They are attached to some regiment as Signalers. I wonder if I'll ever get back to the old 127th. Well, I'm pretty sure that there is no such luck. Wednesday I was at school our day. School hours are from 7:30 A.M. until 11:30 and from 1 P.M. until 4:30 In the morning we have one and sometimes two lectures. One on batterys and the other on magnetism. The rest of the time is spent on buzzer practice. The time sure passes fast, because the work is very interesting and it is a sort of novelty to a beginner. The more interest work is coming and that is of being able to repair a radio apparatus and how to set one up. Wednesday night I took a walk of about a mile and a half to Noyers pronounced Noi já. The reason for the walk was I wanted to see Jake. I found the company he was in, but only to be told that he was there a



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day and then sent to the front with a supply train. I'll bet he has lots of news to write. I came back from my intended visit, ate supper and then went to town. St. Aignon and it is pronounced St. An-yon. The French make the "o" broad as in boat. St. Aignon is a pretty fair sized town and the main part is about three-quarters of a mile from Camp. On the way to town we have to cross a creek, canal, and river. The Canal and River are the same as we go through Selles-sur-Cher. There are quite a few stores in town. Restaurants and lots of Dubonnets or saloons, but I don't drink anymore. I'm broke until payday and then I won't have much. Thursday was the 4th of July and was a holiday. No classes or any kind of work. Nothing to do but eat and loaf. We sure do get some real feeds here, but the feeds of the 4th of July were a little extra-ordinary. For breakfast we had hot-cakes. I only got seven. I was so "sore" that I wouldn't go back and ask for more. For dinner we had steak, potato salad, bread, butter, apple sauce and lemonade. For supper we had meat, spread, bread, butter coffee and some "honest to God" apple pie. I hate to say it but I must. Home-made pies have nothing on the pies our cooks made so you've got to hand it to them. I wish they would try and make the boys get sick and tired of pie. They are likely to succeed and then again they are not. I'm thinking its mostly "not". The French people seemed to have celebrated the 4th too. Everybody was dressed up and wore American flags. The houses were also decorated with flags. In the evening an American band played and then there were moving pictures at the Y.M.C.A. On the way home I saw a few sky-rockets go out and a few red and green lights. This was all the firework celebrations I saw. How was the 4th at home? I suppose it was pretty lame compared to other years. Well I went to bed and that ended the 4th of July 1918 for me. Friday was the same as the other days. School, eat and sleep. In the evening I went swimming and came back and wrote on this letter. I started it during the noon hour and expect to finish as I said before by supper time today and it getting pretty close to that time and also I will finish if I don't run out of paper. This morning we had our first weeks examination. We get one every Saturday morning. It was on batterys. Our papers were marked during the morning and I got a 100. That wasn't so bad, was it? Well, I hope it continues for at least six weeks and then the course will be over. This afternoon I got some new clothes. I got a pair of breeches, a shirt, a pair of hot nail shoes, and a pair of wrap leggings. We were also issued, two towels, comb, tooth-brush, and an auto-strap safety razor. Well this concluded all the news up to the present time so I will only ask a few questions and then close.

How are things coming along at home? How is business? Is Leo still working? I suppose Marcus and Rose are having vaction now. Is Marcus doing anything this summer or is he just whiling the time away? How is the weather around home? I suppose it is pretty warm now-a-days. In France we are having some real fine weather. Haven't had rain since I've been here. Crops are coming up pretty fine and the grape vines are quite large. Well its just about supper so I will close this letter with love and kisses to all. I remain as ever

Your loving and affectionate Son

Max

Robert E. Campbell
2nd Lt. Sig. O.H.S.R.

Pvt. Max Ottenfeld
Base Signal School
Depot Division
First Army Corps.
American E.F.
A.P.O. 727

Letter #37

Page 1

St. Aignan, France

August 6, 1918

Dear Folks,

Received a postal card from you dated June 18, and sure was glad to hear from you. I wrote to you twice last week and gave you all the news up to that time. I very sorry to say that there is very little news to write in this letter.

I hope this letter will find you all well and in the best of health. For myself, I can say that I am getting along alright.

Last Friday was payday and I drew my sixty six francs. Saturday was examinations and I didn't do nowheres near as good as I have been doing in the past. Just the same I am sure I will qualify as an operator. If you remember this is supposed to be my last week in school. I think we will have our final examinations this coming Saturday. If I qualify I will be shipped out, if not, I do no know what will be done with me. You know, I told you that in order to become a qualified operator a person must be able to receive fifteen or more words a minute. When at practice I can receive from fifteen to eighteen words a minute but when we have contests I break down. But it wont happen this week because it means too much to me.

A problem that is bothering me is what I should do with my personal property including all your letters, when I go to the front. We are allowed just about enough clothing and other things to get along with. We only take what we can carry on our backs. I think I will get a box and pack my stuff in it and leave it at the Y.M.C.A. and have them send it to me when I come back from the front. This is the only thing that I can do.

Sunday I stayed around the billet so no of nothing new that happened that day. Sunday afternoon I went to see if there was any mail for me. I found your postal card and a letter that was returned to me. It was one I wrote to Violet on June 17th. I wrote it at the English Rest Camp in France on the 17th of June and it was returned to me at Selles-sur-Cher on the 24th of June. I added a little more to the letter and mailed it the 20th of June. Sunday the 4th of Aug. it was returned to me because I didn't have any postage on it. I didn't know I had to have a stamp on a letter to England, but it sure took them a long enough time to send it back. I had some souvenirs in the letter and I guess by the time she gets them they will be more of an antique than a souvenir. Just the same I'm going to try my luck once more in sending them.

Yesterday was Monday and the start of the last week in school. Pretty hard and uncomfortable working out in the open because we have been having some very miserable weather lately rain all day long and it makes the air quite cold.

Today was gas drill day. School work during the rest of the day in the rain. At present we are having some rain and the wind is blowing a regular gale. How's the weather around home? Must be pretty hot, eh? How's everything coming along around home now-a-days? Have you heard from Uncle or anybody else lately? If so, what have they to say?

I notice by your postal card that Mark is working, Say, that sure is good news. I wonder if he is still on the job now. Well don't forget to make him go back to school when vacation is over. By the way what is he doing and how many thousand dollars is he making a day? How is Rose getting along? I hope she is doing some thing in the line of war work. Buying war stamps I suppose! Well she's doing her share. Is she going to sewing school this summer? I meant to write to her long ago but haven't done it yet, but she will get a nice long letter from me soon. I haven't written to Wallie yet neither. I started a letter to him about two weeks ago but haven't finished it yet. So you ever hear anything about him? Also do you ever hear anything about Jake. I wrote to him quite a while ago but have received no answer yet.

Well, this is about all the news I have for this time so I will close with love and kisses to all. I remain as ever your
Loving and affectionate son,

Max

Robert E. Campbell
2nd Lt. S.C. 99.S.N.

"Somewhere in France"

Oct. 15, 1918

Dear Folks:

It's a long, long time since I wrote to you last but the circumstances were such that I couldn't find the time and place to write. Now however I have plenty of time to write and will do my best to write often, as I know you are waiting patiently for a letter. Such is the case with me also. Since I left Signal School in August I have had no word from you or anyone else. So you see that I also am waiting patiently for a letter. The reason I do not get any mail I suppose is because my outfit has been moving so much that it is impossible for my mail to catch up with me. I sure will be happy when I get a letter from you and I suppose you will be the same when you get a letter from me.

Well I hope this letter will find you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling pretty fine considering where I am at. I bet you will be surprised when you find out that I am in a hospital, but don't worry because by the time you get this letter I will be well and back to my outfit a long time. I was gassed Oct. 9 but didn't go to the hospital until the 12th. I expect to be out in a week or so because I didn't get it bad. You can see that I am feeling pretty good by the way I write this letter. I am up and walking around and you ought to see me at "chow" time, I can't get enough to eat s a continually kick. All I wish is that I was back to my outfit and then I would be all right. I left them 12th and the next day was to be pay day so I am out of luck for some money, but I don't need it here and besides the month is almost over and I'll have two months coming instead of one. Since I wrote last, I have been through h-- a good many times but still am alive and kicking. I've been over the "tops" a good many times since then and have seen all of the worst horrors of the war. Seeing dead and wounded now is nothing new to me.

Since I have been with the outfit I haven't done a bit of wireless work because they have no wireless instruments and also wireless is very seldom used at the front. J.P.S. is sometimes used but not very much. The telephone is the important thing, and it is some job keeping the wires together during artillery fire. The day I was gassed we went out once during a shelling and in a short distance found thirty seven breaks to fix. You can imagine how busy the telephone men are kept and how "soft" a job they have.

I wish I could tell you more about the last drive but I think that is impossible to do on account of the censors. No doubt the American papers are full of it and you have read it by this time. You can guess how much good was accomplished on this last drive by they way the German peace proposal flew about. But according to the papers over here peace is in sight.

Well so much for war news. How is everything coming along at home? I hope things are O.K.

I bet there was something missed and something saved at home the early part of this month, around the 3rd. I suppose you know what I mean my birthday. No scraps to give and no presents to buy. Well, I think it will be the only one spent that way. I sure will always remember one birthday and that is this last one which was spent at the lines. Well so much for my birthday. In a few days it will be Marcus' birthday and if I have any paper left I will write a letter to him. Paper is very scarce around this hospital, in fact it is impossible to get. The paper I am writing on now I picked up on the battle field the day we were relieved and it sure is coming in handy.

How is Rose getting along? I suppose she and Marcus are back at school. Tell Marcus to work this year so that he will get through alright. I bet Rose is waiting for a letter from me. I don't know whether I wrote her a letter since I was at Signal School or not, but just as soon as I get more paper I will write to her. How about your getting letters from me? I wrote back around the end of August. Have you been getting my mail up to that time? I hope you have. How about the stars and stripes I subscribed for and had sent home? Have you received any copies of it yet? How are my friends getting along?

Letter #40

Page 2

Give them my regards. I saw a piece in one of the papers here where it says that Mr. Taubert's son was awarded the American Medal for Bravery. I saved the clipping but lost it when my clothes were taken away at the hospital. I wonder what his dad thinks of him now. Does old man Taubert ever come around? What does he do now-a-days?

Do you ever hear from Uncle? If so what has he to say? I suppose things are the same with him as always.

Has the old town changed much lately? How about the students at the University? Are there just as many boys there as in other years? I suppose not.

How is Company 5 coming along? Are they still existing?

How is Bob Wise getting along? Still on the old job is he? Does he ever write to me? I have never written to him yet because I have been waiting for a letter from him.

How is the weather around home now-a-days? Cold?

Here in France we are having rotten weather. Rains about all the time and also is quite cold. Well this is about all I have to write for this time so I will close with love and kisses to all I remain as ever

Your loving and affectionate Son,

Max

Pvt. Max Ottenfeld

Headquarters Co., 18th Inf.

Signal Section

American E.F.

Letter #45

Page 1

Grevenmache-, Lux

November 30, 1918

Dear Folks,

It's a long time since I wrote the last letter to you, and I only have received one letter from you since last August. I cant figure out why I got only one letter in all that time. When I got back to the company a few days ago there was a letter waiting for me. You can hardly imagine how glad I was to get some word from you. Your letter was written Oct. 7th and the last letter I got before this was dated June 11th. I am wondering what happened to all the letters you wrote during the rest of June, July, August, Sept and the first week in Oct. I haven't seen a one. Surely you wrote during that time.

I wrote last, (that is before I got to the hospital,) about the middle of August. From the middle of August I didn't write until about Oct. 20. The reason was that we were on the move all the time and I couldn't get a chance to write. I wrote several times while I was in the hospital but this is the first time I have written since I left there. I wrote to you the day before I left the hospital and told you that I was going to leave Well, I did leave and it took me up to now to find my outfit. Believe me, I sure done some traveling in that time. I have a little map here that I will show you part of my journey as all of the places are not on the map. I will write on a separate paper as much of my trip as possible.

Well, first of all I hope this letter will find you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling pretty good except for a cough. I have hardly been able to talk in the last week, but my voice is getting better now.

To start with, I have an idea that this is going to be one of my old time style of letters, long and plenty of news. Well I will say that I sure have to write.

I left the hospital on the 28th of Oct. and traveled hundreds of miles and finally landed with my outfit. The boys had been hiking for 22 days and sure covered some distance. They went through Alsace and Lorraine and we are now almost through Luxumbourg. In fact we are on this side of the river that is the boundary between Germany and Luxumbourg. We are right along the Moselle River and in a few days we are going to cross it and go into Germany.

By the looks of things we are still due to stay on this side of the pond for a few more months.

I'll bet the people in the States sure were glad to hear that the Armistice was signed. But I bet they weren't any more glad than the people over here and especially the soldiers that were in this last drive. The drive that brought the Kaiser's career to an end. I suppose the American papers were full of the Verdun drive and the Argonne Forests. I was up in the Argonne until I went to the hospital and I'll never forget some of the sights I saw there. The Fritzs sure put up some battle for about two weeks and then they started to run and they didn't stay until the armistice was signed. They are still going yet, but they feel safe now that they haven't run "grosse canonene" to keep them warmed up.

I am expecting to cross the river in a couple of days. The talk around here is that we are to go into Germany the 1st of Dec.

As I said before I am with my outfit. I found them at this town and were are still here. I am back with the Signal Section, but instead of working with the Battalion Signal or telephone work I am an operator at the Regamental Radio Station. The work is not so bad, but the hours to work are so uncertain. I may work in the morning or evening and then again I may have to work sometime during the night. This is my second day in the Radio Station. I m on duty from 6 to 10 P.M. We work or rather the station is open day and night and someone is always on the job. Each man works four hours out of the twenty four. This may not seem so bad, but it is very tiresome, to sit still with a pair of receivers on your ears for four hours.

While I am writing this letter I am on duty. There is nothing coming in so I have plenty of time to write.

This seems about to be all the news I have to write about my new job and getting back to the outfit, except for the news I am going to write about the trip I have had the last month and half.

Now I am going to tell you how I am getting along in the country where the German language is mostly spoken and also about the town I am in.

First of all I suppose you know that Luxembourg is an independent country situated between France and Germany in the southern part of Luxembourg there are a good many people who speak almost entirely French, but they also can speak German. In the northern part the people speak mostly German. That is a sort of German, more a dialect. The people call it flat-seutich some of the language is very hard to understand as it is so different from the real German language, but most of the people can speak the real German.

As you know, I could speak some German when I was back in the States, but now I have improved about a thousand percent. The boys claim I'm "sitting on them" because I can speak the lingo. There are a good many of the boys who can't speak German, so when I go out with some of them I have to be what the Germans called "der Dolmitcher" or in English, "the interpreter". I don't believe I spelled the German word correct but maybe you can make it out.

The people say I can speak German very good and also understand it. I can't be so very bad at it because I can talk all day and evening and never run out of words. I have met a great number of people and spoke to them are surprised to hear an American speak German. Lots of them ask if I was born in Germany or if my folks were born in Germany. When I tell them that I am a real American and also that my folks are not German they wonder where I learned to speak the language. They then ask if I learned it in school and when I tell them no, they begin to wonder where I learned it and how it was that I could speak it. When I tell them I learned it by living among German people they sure are surprised.

The people here treat us all very good and sure are hospitable. A great many of the boys are sleeping in feather beds in Luxembourg homes.

For myself I can say that sleeping in a feather bed, though still sort of a novelty is not so much of a novelty now as it was about a week and a half ago. It sure was great and rather a funny sensation the first night I slept in a feather bed. The feather bed and covers seemed about three feet thick --- I touched them with my hand to feel how soft they were. I just laid my hand in the bedding and it was so soft that my hand sunk about a foot deep. I got scared and at first I wasn't going to go to bed as I was afraid I might smother to death. But I didn't remain afraid very long as I was tired and wanted to get as much sleep as possible and as soon as possible well I undressed and hopped into the bed and here I got a scare even worse than the other one. I could have sworn the mattress was made of air and the springs of rubber. After I made that hop I thought I lit on the bed, well in fact I did land on top of the bed, but I went through them feather bed so fast I thought I was going to go through the floor. Gee that was an awful sensation. Finally, after a few minutes I got accustomed to the novelty and the old boat sure rode easy and "ich bab sehax shoen geplafen."

First of all Grevenmacher has a population of about 5000 and is a prospering little city. It has some pretty buildings and good streets. The city runs along the Moselle River and just about every house has electric lights. This is about all I have to write about Grevenmacher.

As it is getting pretty late I am going to answer your letter and go to bed as I will be off duty about that time.

Your letter was written the 6th of Oct. and I sure was happy when I received it. You said that another dreary week had passed without you hearing from me. Did you get all the letters I wrote in July and August?

You say you celebrated my birthday. Gee I wish I would have been there to help you celebrate.

By this letter you see that you have moved to a new house and also that you are well satisfied with the change.

You say you have pretty nice weather at home. Well it is pretty nice here now too. But last week and the week before we had some pretty cold days and plenty of rain.

You ask in your letter if I heard from Jake or Wally lately. No, I haven't heard from --- either for a long time. That is I haven't since August and not at all from Wally since I came over here. I suppose their mail is delayed some where also.

Letter #45

Page 3

I notice you got several copies of the Stars and Stripes already and I am glad you think it is an interesting newspaper.

I notice Leo has a new job now. How does he like it?

Well I am getting to the end of my letter and also in a few minutes I get off duty.

I notice in your letter that everything is alright at home and I sure am glad to hear that and can say that everything is fine over here.

Well this is all I have to write for the time so will close with love and kisses to all I remain as ever your loving and affectionate

Son,

Max

Headquarters Co. 18th Inf.

Signal Section

American E.F.

Mogendorf, Germany

Dec. 26, 1918

Dear Folks,

It is now about 12.20A.M. and as a new day has started I put the date down as the 26th. Christmas day has just passed and it wasn't a very merry Christmas as it might have been, but just the same it was better than we expected it would be. I am on duty from 12 to 4A.M. so have plenty of time in which to write this letter.

I hope this letter will reach you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling pretty good.

I received two letters from you last night and I sure felt that I received a good Christmas present. One letter was dated the 24th of November and one was from the 25th. The one from the 25th was that little letter with your card in it.

I wrote to you the 24th, Christmas eve and told you all the news up to that time. During the night of the 24th we had a pretty good snow storm so the next morning had the appearances of a regular Christmas.

Christmas dinner was a whole lot better than the ordinary dinner but it was far from being anything like a real Christmas dinner. We had pork, mashed spuds, sauer kraut gray, bread and coffee. We also got some chocolates, a few cookies, and a package of Micca Cigarettes. We all came up in the Wireless Room to eat. When we got in, the woman of the house brought in two big plates of kuchen and that helped to make our dinner a whole lot better. There was nothing doing around here all day. The civilian were all dressed up and spent most of the day in the Wirtshafts. Outside of the people being dressed up you wouldn't have know that it was a holiday. In the evening I received your two letters but didn't get time to answer them right away, but sure am going to try my best to answer them now.

By your letter of the 24th I see that you haven't heard from me again for about a week and a half. The reason for the delay this time is that I had so much traveling to do since I left the hospital that I didn't get time to write on the way. Also on this hike, we couldn't mail any letters until we got to our stopping place. I think you will get an awful bunch of letters by the end of this month and during January. You say you don't know what Division I am with. Well its about time I tell you then. I am with the First Division, Premier Division Americain Soldat der la Guevre In other words, the first American division to reach France. They landed June 28th, 1917. They will be here 18 months the 28th of this month. The first one in the trenches and one of the last out. The first division over here and by the looks of things it is going to be the last to go back. The First Division is known as "Pershings Own".

I'm glad to hear that things are going back to pre-war time ways. You say you had a package for me but couldn't send it on account of not having a label I sure am sorry you couldn't send it as I surely would appreciate it.

That plan you have in mind for my homecoming has my heartiest approval. I sure will be glad to get a good feed.

Your little letter of the 25th contains good news right in the first line. According to your letter your received a letter from me dated Oct. 17th. It must have been one of the first ones I wrote from the hospital. I wrote a letter to Marcus about that time too, did he get it. You say you receive the Stars and Stripes regular. I'm glad of that as it is a very good paper and contains lots of news.

I notice with much pleasure that you were able to secure a package label and that you sent me a package. I ought to get it pretty soon. I'm wondering what is in it.

You say that there are a couple of Co.G. men home already? What are they, wounded or sick? You ask if I observed Father's Day. Well I'm sorry to say that I didn't because I did not get a chance to write that day or I sure would have written that nice long letter that you expected.

This brings me to the end of your letter and also to the end of mine, so I will close for this time with love and

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and kisses to all I remain as ever your loving and affectionate son

Max

*Headquarters Co. 18th Inf.
Signal Section American E.F.*