



Coblenz, Ger

Jan. 12, 1919

Dear Folks,-

It's quite a while since I wrote to you last, but in a minute or so I will tell you the reason I did not write sooner. The last time I wrote to you was right after Christmas. I also wrote to Rose and sent her a little souvenir. Did she get it? I haven't heard from you for almost three weeks but expect to get some mail soon.

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 now. As you will no doubt notice this letter is written from Coblenz. The reason this letter is written from Coblenz is that I am in a hospital there. As I said a few lines above I am feeling pretty good now so there is no need of any worry on your part. Now to tell you why I am in the hospital, I was on duty the night of the 29th of Dec I had the Grave yard shift (from 12 M to 4 A.M.) about 2 A.M. I got sleepy as could be had a headache and fever and chills. I finished my shift and went to bed. I didn't go to breakfast or dinner but got up about 3:30 P.M. and later on went to supper. All I could eat was a piece of bread and a cup of coffee. I went to bed right after I got through eating and felt pretty bad during the night. The next morning the rest of the fellows made me go to the infirmary and find out what was wrong with me. I went and found out I had a pretty high fever. They wanted to rest me at the infirmary, but I told them I had a better place to stay and that I had a good bed and plenty of fellows to take care of me. They sent me back to the Radio room and I was put to bed again. The woman of the house was very good to me. She use to come up every once in a while to see how I was feeling and she kept on sending up hot milk all the time I wasn't feeling well. She did this to one of the other boys who wasn't feeling well. This other fellow got sick the night before I did and it was just about the same time and he got sick exactly the same way I did. He was better in a day because he took some pills. After they put me to bed and gave me some pills I felt a little better but my fever bothered me a lot so the fellows called up the doctor and he sent me to the hospital. The reason he sent me to the hospital was that he was afraid I was getting the Flu. I went to the hospital the afternoon of the 31st of Dec they sent me to a Field hospital at Dernbach. I was there until the afternoon of the 3rd of Jan and then they sent me to Evacuation Hospital No. 2 at Coblenz. I have been getting out of bed now for several days and the only kick I have against the hospital is that they aren't giving me enough chow. Well now to find out what is going on at home. How is everything now-a-days. I hope everything is O.K., I suppose lots of soldiers are back by this time. By the looks of things my outfit wont go yet for a couple of months, but there again we may pull out Most anything. There have been rumors floating around that we are due to pull out by the 15th of the month, but today is the 12th and I have heard nothing to the effect that the 1st Division is going to leave.

According to the papers, Ex-Pres Roosevelt is dead. I bet there sure is some mourning going on in America. Col. Roosevelt has two sons here in Coblenz. Both are officers in the 1st Div. Hows the weather in the States? Around here we are having quite a bit of rain and I hear that the Rhine River is rising quite a bit. Had rain all last night.

I wrote to the Company day before yesterday and asked them to forward my mail if there was any and also asked about my Christmas package. It sure ought to be here by this time. I am anxious to know what you sent.

One thing I suppose you will want to know is where I got this stationary. Well, a Jewish Army Chaplain came around to the ward and asked if there were any Jewish patients. I told him yes and he came over and spoke to me. He said he would come around again and see me. He asked if there was anything I needed and I told him nothing extra. He came I believe it was day before yesterday and brought a suit case along. He gave me quite a bit of this paper and envelopes, a package of "Humps" and a small box of chocolates. Also some newspapers. I sure was glad to get the chocolates. He told me



not to get sick by eating to many at once, but what do I do but eat to many right after he tells me not too. Next day I was feeling sick and had a headache all day. Serves me right doesn't it? Well chocolates are such a luxury a person cant help but be hoggish. I still have five or six chocolates left and am eating them one at a time. In a little while I will be waiting for more. The chaplain say he would come again, but I am in a different ward now I think they call it a convalescence ward and I wonder if he will find me. If he comes again and asks me if there is anything I want, I am going to hit him for a razor as I haven't shaved for quite a while and the fuzz is getting pretty long. About three weeks ago I had my hair cut at the company barber and he sure done some job. There was an order floating around that everybody should have their hair cut short so short that it couldn't be gotten hold of. Well the barber tried to see if he couldn't cut mine a little shorter than was required and he did it alright. It wouldn't have been so bad if he hadn't cut my hair like a mason cutting stairs up the side of a hill. Well outside of that everything is alright so I will close for this time and hope that by the time this letter reaches you I will be back to the company. With love and kisses to all I remain as ever you loving and affectionate son

Max

P.S. I suppose it will be hard to read this writing as I am lying in bed and writing on a magazine



Coblenz, Ger

Jan. 16 1919

Dear Folks,

I wrote the other day and told you all the news, also about my being in the hospital. As you can see by the heading I am still in the hospital. I am feeling fine and am up and around a good part of the day and hope to be getting my clothes soon. That is, I expected to get my clothes soon but by the present outlook I won't get them for at least two weeks yet. The reason I think this will be the case is because three fellows in my ward are suspected of having diphtheria and if this is so I am pretty sure the ward will be quarantined. I hope it isn't going to be true. They took tests on all of our throats but only these three are suspected of having the germs-

Well I hope this letter will find you all well and in the best of health.

I'm sorry I haven't any real news to write as I can't leave the building.

So far I haven't received any of your mail from the company or the Christmas package. I doubt if they have by letters at the company yet. From what I hear it will take about three weeks for that letter to go the thirty kilometers from here to the company. Maybe they will send my mail to the hospital without receiving my letter. I hope so anyway.

How is everything coming along at home now-a-days? I hope everything is O.K. have things in the way of living changed much since the Armistice was declared? I suppose food is to be had more easily now, isn't it? In this hospital you would think the war had been going on for about forty years the way they feed me. Well such is luck.

In my other letter I told you about that Jewish Chaplain coming up to see me. Since then he has not come again and I am looking for him every day.

Time, although it goes quite fast is nevertheless very monotonous. Nothing to do but read and smoke. I read till my eyes get sore and then I chew the rag awhile. After chewing the rag a while my eyes get better so I read a little more. Hardly any excitement ever occurs, that is, except at chow times, and then every body in the ward raises particular hell.

Well this is about all the news. Weather here has been pretty wet but today the sun put up a hard fight to show its face and on several occasions succeeded in doing so. How is the weather back home? Well, so much for this letter so I will close with love and kisses to all. I remain as ever your loving and affection son,

Max

Headquarters Co. 18th U.S. Inf.

First Division

American E.F.

Germany



Coblenz, Ger.

Jan. 21 1919

Dear Folks,

It is several days now since I wrote last but there is hardly anything to write about. Things are so very slow in the hospital and there is nothing but disgusting news in the newspapers. I notice they are writing lots of articles in the papers now since some of the boys went home that sure make us boys over here feel good. A bit of news that was worth a months pay was that about the Y.M.C.A. getting it in the neck. It sure took a long time to find out that they were crooked. Well, I'll think they will find out lots of things that will make them sit up and take notice.

I hope this letter will find you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling fine and expect to get out pretty soon.

I have been waiting to get some of your mail from the company but so far have heard nothing as to whether they received my letter or not.

Have you been getting any mail from me lately? I think you ought to receive a letter about once a day for a while.

How is everything at home now-a-days. How is the weather? Weather here is pretty rainy. Well this is all I have to write so I will close with love and kisses to all I remain as ever your loving and affectionate Son

Max

Headquarters Co., 18th Inf.

Signal Section

1st Division

American E.F. Germany



Coblenz, Ger
Jan 22, 1919
Dear Folks,

I wrote yesterday, a small letter as there was nothing to write about. Everything goes on in the usual way. Nothing news.

I hope this letter will find you al well and in the best of health. For myself I am say that I am feeling fine.

The doctör came in this morning to give me a raking over the coals: I asked him why and he said I have been hanging around long enough and there is nothing the matter with me. I said to him, if you want me to get out give me some clothes. In about an hour I got clothes. Shoes, socks, underwear, breeches, blouse, O.D. shirt, over-coat and cap, but no leggings. The reason for not getting leggings is so that I can't beat it from the hospital and go to town. Oh, they are wise alright. Well I expect to go up to another ward where the fellows all have clothes. In this ward I have to stay ten days and do light duty. Well, this is about all I can write today so I will close with love and kisses to all. I remain as ever you loving and affectionate son

Max

*Pvt. Max Ottenfeld
Headquarters Co., 18th Inf.
Signal Section
1st Division
American E.F. Germany*

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME



Trier, Germany

Feb. 16, 1919

Dear Folks,

Its quite a long time ago that I wrote to you last and told you how everything was getting along. I guess I got one of my old spells and just couldn't sit down and write. Well today I think that that spell has left me so I am going to try and write you a letter in which I will tell you all the news to date.

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 fairly well except for a bad cold.

The last time I wrote I was in a hospital in Coblenz, but now I am in a hospital at Trier. Almost everybody in the hospital at Coblenz was shipped to Trier. I think we left Coblenz the 26th of Jan. We got on a Red Cross Hospital train in the morning and in the evening we arrived in Trier. I am now at Evacuation Hospital No. 12. The hospital is located in what was formerly known as the Hinderburg "Coserne" or barracks it is a pretty nice place and is all closed in. On one side is a small mountain that goes almost straight up in the air from the foot. On the other three sides the place is walled in. In this place the German had their troops stationed and also had a Lazarett or hospital. There are two big mess halls where not so many months ago German troops ate but are now being used by the Americans. Also there are the barracks big brick buildings, with baths and toilets. A good many of the boys are now sleeping in beds that Germans use to occupy. Life is very dull around here and also very monotonous. We can go to town only on pass. Here in camp, that is the hospital grounds we have a big Red Cross Hut no Y.M.C.A. Better off with out I think. Almost every day they serve out Hot Chocolate or coffee with cookies or sandwiches, which the boys surely appreciate. Also there are lots of magazines and newspapers to read. Just about every evening there is a show or moving pictures. There have been some pretty good shows up to date. The pictures are German and nobody cares for them because they are so different from ours. Also lots of the fellows say they are too deep to understand but I think they are too complicated to understand. Well from tonight on we are going to have American pictures. Tonight we are going to have Charlie Chaplin with us. There is going to be an early show for patients starting at 6P.M. Last night we had lectures on the History of France.

I have been to town several times but there is nothing worth while there. They have several picture shows and an opera house. There maybe more for all I know. Trier is a very old city and has a Roman Road and several arches. If you remember I wrote a letter telling you of hiking through Trier in the early part of December. To be exact it was the 2nd of Dec. I haven't seen the ruins of the old Castles and places yet because I haven't being able to get to town before 7P.M.

In town the Red Cross, K.C. and Y.M.C.A. have some fine places for the boys. They have shows and dances at the Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A. Its fun to watch when they have dances. For instance in the Red Cross the other night they had a dance. There were about two hundred boys who wanted to dance and only four or five Red Cross Women. You know as well as I do that the boys don't like to dance together. Well whats the use of dancing anyways if you haven't got a girl to dance with So what they done to overcome the shortage of women was, about every minute a whistle would blow and that would be a signal for changing partners. The reason for changing partners was so as to give the fellows a chance to dance with the women and not let certain fellows hog the women the whole dance. Here's where the fun comes in. When the whistle blew the fellows would make a mad rush out on the floor and try to grab one of the women. Almost everytime the whistle blew, half a dozen fellows would almost smother one of the women trying to get a dance. One would grab her



by the right arm, another by her left, some would get her by the shoulders, and some poor boob who was to far back in the crowd to grab hold of her would smile at her thinking she would dance with him because of his smile. I don't know what I would do if I was in the girls place I think I would go wild. Well so much for the dances. I think I will go out and get my supper now so as to get strength enough to finish this letter.

Feb 17, 1919

I meant to finish this letter last night after supper but couldn't get the chance. When I came back to the Red Cross the moving pictures were going on so I couldn't get ink and pen to write with so I let the letter go until today. The morning pictures are good and especially old Charlie. He sure made the bunch laugh. He played in "The Cure."

This morning I went on light duty. I swept about eight flights of stairs. Day before yesterday I was transferred from the hospital proper to the Convalescence Building so it is only a matter of a few days before I will be going back to the outfit. Well I think I have had a long enough rest anyway.

Tonight or maybe this afternoon I will go to town and try to see the ruins and Roman archways. I believe every afternoon a bunch from the Convalescence Building go sightseeing so I will try to go with them today. If I go I will have something to write about.

Well this is about all the news up to the present time so I am going to ask a few questions.

How is everything at home coming along? I hope things are O.K. Have you been getting my letters. How about the letters wrote on the hike. Did you get them all? What's the news of the troops coming home? Are many of the boys back yet? I suppose are just those that are sick or wounded. I thought for a while that I was coming back but no such luck. By the looks of things and the rumors floating around it seems as though the Regular Army will be the last to leave, so I am figuring that if I will be home to celebrate the 4th of July I will be lucky. Just the same I am not paying much attention to the rumors as no one can tell when the rumors are likely to change.

How are Rose and Marcus getting along? Are they writing to me? Tell Rose I have a pretty Souvenir for her. It is a Braclet made out of a Rotating Band of a German seventy-seven. It was made by a Dutchman up in the lines and all the Nurses say it is a nice little souvenir.

Well up to the present time I have had no mail from you since I left the outfit so there ought to be quite a bit there for me. I suppose when I get there they will have sent it to the hospital so I will have to wait until it gets back and then maybe most of it will be lost. The mail they sent to me the last time I was in the hospital must have gone lost because I haven't got it yet. I haven't only a couple of letters from June and July and I am quite sure that I have some from August and September and only a few from Oct. and November.

How is the weather around home? Has the ice in the lakes started to break yet? Weather here was very cold, but for the last three days it has been raining almost continuously and sure is muddy all around. In the morning it is so foggy a person can hardly see. If it keeps on raining this afternoon I don't think we will have a sightseeing party so I will have to go some other time.

Well this is 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

Headquarters Co. 18th Inf. 1st Div.
Signal Section American E.F.
Mogendorf, Ger.

Evacuation Hosp. 12.

Trier, Germany.

March 3, 1919.

Dear Foks:

It is now several days since I wrote to you last so I am going to avail myself of the spare time I have this morning by taking the opportunity of writing a letter to you. Seeing that I finally finished the first sentence and still have some time left in which to write, I will continue the letter.

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 and that I have almost got rid of my cold.

As you can see by the heading of this letter I am still in the hospital, but expect to go out in a few days. I am still working in the office and like the work quite well. Yesterday the doctor looked over all the men on permanent light duty details and sent some of them to their companies. When he came to me I told him that I felt pretty good but that I wanted to stay a while longer so that I could get my teeth fixed and that the Dentist had told me to come back in a few days. If it isn't too late before I get this letter finished this morning I am going to see the dentist.

Time seems to fly by very fast since I have been in the hospital. It is already over two months since I have been away from my company and I am getting kind of anxious to get back and see how things are getting along..Also to see about my mail.

So far I have not received any of my mail since I left the outfit and sure would like to hear from you and whoever writes to me. How about my mail, have you been getting it right along? I hope you have been getting more letters from me lately than I have been getting from you.

News around here is very scarce and it is very hard to write a good letter without any news to put in it. Nothing but working all day and going to town at night. There is a little excitement every now and then but I can't tell you about it in this letter. Outside of that occasional excitement there is nothing doing except going to bed early.

I almost forgot to tell you that I went on that sightseeing trip Saturday afternoon and visited some of the old historical Roman buildings. The first place we went to was the Remisher Bader. We could see nothing but the old ruins of the foundation. From what the guide told us the original Remisher Bader must have been a wonderful place and was very much visited by people from different parts of the continent.

The second place we went to was the Kaiserpalast. From the name a person would think it was an old palace, but in reality it is only another Roman Bath. Around this place still remains a large portion of the old wall that went around the old city of Trier.

The next place we went to was the museum. Here were lots of Roman antiques, vases, jars, rings, armour, swords, and things of like description. The collection was'nt large but it was old and historical.

After looking through the museum we started for home as it was getting near supper time and we had a long way to go home.

The day was very good and made the hike all the more pleasant than if it was dark and dreary. I believe Saturday was the best day we have had this year or at least we had the most sunshine, than on any other day.

How is the weather home? About this time spring ought to be showing up. Here in Germany since that good day Saturday, we have been having some very wet weather again and it seems as though we can't have two days of sunshine in a row.

I suppose Marcus and Leo have already begun their fishing season and are having lots of luck. How has the fishing been the last two summers? Was there much Ice-fishing last winter?

I am getting near the end of my letter and hardly know what to say so I am going to ask you, How are things coming along at home? I hope everything is O.K.

Is there anything new happening around the town or is it still going the same old way? I suppose a lots of the War restrictions are now being done away with and things are getting more lively than they been in the last two years.

This is about all I have to write for this time so I will close for this time with love and kisses to all, I remain as ever your loving and affectionate Son

Max

Headquarters Co., 18th Inf.

Signal Section,

First Division,

American E.F. Germany

Letter #67

Letter #68

Page 1

Evac. Hosp. No. 12

Trier, Germany.

March 6, 1919.

Dear Folks,

I wrote a couple of days ago and as I always say in each letter, I told you all the news that was possible to be told. Having nothing to do tonight I decided I might as well the time in writing a letter to you. Usually I go to town at night but I can't go anymore or at least I can't go for a while yet because I was restricted to the Hospital Limits for overstaying the time on my pass one night. There is a band concert at the Red Cross tonight but I didn't care to hear it so I am spending the time in the office.

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 good but am still at the hospital because I want to get my teeth fixed.

As I always say there is hardly anything worth while writing and news is one of the scarce articles to find, even going to town every night one cannot get enough news to write a decent sized and interesting letter. I always like to write a long letter and I suppose you like to get a long letter every now and then.

Up to the present time I have'nt heard from you since left I left the outfit and am just aching to hear from you and find out how you are getting along and also how things are around the old town.

Weather around here is quite rainy and slightly cool. How is the weather around Madison? I hope it is better than it is around here.

By the way I met a boy from Madison here at the hospital and he says he knows you very well. He used to work at Karl's Meat Market across the street from where we used to live. His name is Schneider and says he worked for Karl's quite a while. I have had a little talk with him but have'nt been able to get time enough to have a real talk about the old town. I sure was glad to meet him.

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

Max

Headquarters Co., 18th Inf.

Signal Section

First Division

American E.F.

Letter #69

Page 1

Evacuation Hospital No. 12.

Trier, Germany.

March 12, 1919.

Dear Folks,

Just a few lines before I go over to the Red Cross Hut and take in the show that is schedule for tonight, to let you know how things are coming along over here. I expect the show will start Toot Sweet so I will have to make this a short letter.

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.

What to tell you in this letter is something I will have to think about before I write much more in this letter. I know of nothing that can be considered news as there is nothing happening around the hospital and as I told you before I can't go to town. I doubt if there is any news there.

Tomorrow we expect to have General Pershing inspect the Hospital so you can imagine how busy everything is around here preparing for the coming inspection. I made out a little bulletin on the typewriter telling the boys how to prepare in order to be ready for the inspection. I am going to send a copy of it along with this letter. If the General comes tomorrow I will write and let you know how things came along.

I have one little bit of news to tell you which I think you will be glad to hear. One of the captain doctors in the office here was talking to me and he asked me why I didn't have my nose fixed. I told him that I thought that it couldn't be fixed but he looked at it and said that he thought it could be fixed. He told me to go over to the Nose Doctor and see about it. I went over this morning and had him examine but he did not say for sure whether he could fix it or not. I will let you know later on what happens.

Weather here has been quite good the last few days and the sun seems to get a chance to shine. How is the weather around home? I hope you are having some good weather now and then.

How is everything coming along at home now-a-days? I hope everything is O.K. What is the news around the town? How about all the soldiers that were in camp around and in Madison? Have they gone home yet or are they still there.?

How about mail, are you getting my letters alright? So far I have not heard from you since the outfit and sure am anxious to get a little news. That boy by the name of Schnieder that I told you of in one of my letters get a big bunch of letters pretty near every day and it sure gets my goat to see so many letters coming from Madison and yet there is not one among them for me. Well I suppose there will be a bunch of letters for me when I get back to my Company.

This all the news I can think of right now and besides I hear the Orchestra as the Red Cross Hut playing so I had better close this Letter if I want to see the show.

With love and kisses to all, I remain as ever your affectionate son

Max

Evacuation Hospital No. 12.
Trier, Germany
March 21, 1919

Letter #70

Dear Folks:

It is now quite some time since I wrote to you last and told you how things were coming along over here. Seeing that we are not very busy this morning or rather that the morning rush is over a little earlier than usual I decided I might as well make use of the time and write a few lines to you.

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 fine. The sun shining in on the typewriter makes me feel a whole lot better and also I am inclined to believe that the sort of weather we have today is just the type that brings on what is known as "Spring Fever."

I meant to write and tell you about General Pershing's visit to the hospital but somehow I couldn't get the time to write but I will take the time to tell you about it now.

The General came the day after I wrote the last letter to you and paid the hospital a visit. He did not inspect the buildings so I do not know whether my notice would have done good. The General reviewed all the Hospital Corp men and all the Patients. Moving pictures were taken of the whole crew and after the General inspected the troops he gave the crowd a little speech. There was nothing new in the talk as most of it was old stuff and had been heard time and time again.

Things are going on the same as usual around here and there is very little news to write about. In my last letter I wrote a little bit of news. It was about getting an operation on my nose. Well I went up to the Doctor a couple of days ago and had him examine my nose again. He told me he could operate on the inside so as to give me more breathing space as that would be necessary, but was not allowed to straighten the bridge as that was more for looks than for necessity. He said that if I was at a Base Hospital I might have the bridge straightened as they have more time to do such things there than they have around here. He says that it is absolutely necessary to have the inside straightened before the bridge is fixed. In order to have the operation done I will have to be transferred out of building 4 to building 8. The doctor said I would have to be in building 8 about 8 or 9 days before I could go back to building 4. He also says that the effects of the operation will not make me sick and that the 8 or 9 days I will be in building 8, I will be up and around all the time. I will not have to be put to sleep for the operation as only a local-anesthetic will be used, that is the nose will be froze with Cocaine or some other dope so that there will be no pain. Seeing that it is so close to the end of the week I decided I would not go over to building 8 until Monday. I suppose by the time you get this letter I will be back in building 4.

In the first part of this letter I was telling you about the sun shining in on the typewriter so I think I will tell you about the changeable weather around. Yesterday four of the boys in my room and myself went out to have our pictures taken. While we were waiting to have it taken a snowstorm hit and what I mean it sure did snow. We had our picture taken when the snow let up a little but it was quite dark so we do not know yet whether the picture will be any good or not. Today the sun is shining as bright as possible and sure reminds one of a perfect spring day. How is the weather around home. I hope you are getting some of the sunshine we are having to day.

How is everything around home now-a-days? I hope everything is O.K. Have you been getting any mail from me lately? So far I have not heard from you since I have been in the hospital so I have to ask for news in my letters to you I expect to get paid in a short time as I asked at the Headquarters and they had me fill out some sort of paper and I am going to sign it to day. If the Major signs it I will get paid soon. I have seen some very pretty Cameo Rings in town and they are very cheap. A good Cameo can be had for about a hundred marks. Just as soon as I get paid I am going to buy a good one. For myself, wee. If you folks at home will wake up enough to write me a letter once in a while I might get liberal enough to buy you a souvenir or two as there are some very nice souvenirs to be had around here.

Well this is all I have to say for this time so I 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.
Germany.



Mogendorf, Germany

April 11, 1919

Dear Folks,

I sent two letters to you yesterday one that I wrote in Trier before I left and the one I wrote here with the money order in it, but I find it absolutely necessary to write again to day as I received the first letter in a long time from you. Your letter is dated March 24 and it reached me in pretty good time. Also I received your Christmas package yesterday evening. It was pretty much smashed up and the candy was stuck to everything.

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 fine. Your letter sure put some pep in me as I was getting discouraged from not hearing from you and how you were getting along.

In my letter yesterday I told you I had my name put in for a two day pass to Coblenz and that I was going to try and get two days extra. Well I asked and was told that the two days were given me because of the Jewish Holidays. The orderly was told to ask me if I wanted to go, but the way he asked me I thought anybody would go, but it is only for those of the Jewish faith.

This morning we had a couple of hours instruction in the different knots to use in fixing a telephone line or rather a broken wire. After that we hiked for about an hour.

Weather is rotten and we had rain all night and most of this morning.

Now I am going to reread your letter and answer your questions and also ask questions.

The first thing I see in your letter is that you received my letter dated March 3. I sure am glad to hear that you get news from me. I suppose you have received a good many more letters from me sent from Trier, but I do not get any of your mail. I wrote very often while in the hospital and sent some post cards and a photo in one letter. I hope you have received them already.

You say Ma and Leo are out of bed already. What was wrong with Ma? I did not know that they were sick. Tell them to take things easy. Tell Leo to be careful not to catch cold as a cold after the Flu is dangerous and develops into pneumonia. I have seen a great many cases of the Flu while in the hospital and know something about it.

I am very sorry to hear that business is bad, but am glad to hear that the weather is fine as it ought to help business along.

You say you met a soldier from my outfit or rather from the band. I am not sure who it is but I will try and find out who has left the band. I hope he visits you as he could tell you a great many interesting things. You say you believe that there are a great many boys from Madison in the 18th Inf. I only know of one and he is in my section.

You are anxious for me to receive your letter of Jan. 17, I have not receive it yet but may sometime in the future. You do not tell me what was in the letter, but according to the next few lines I figure out there was a money order in it. Now I have told you a good many times not to send me any money and I am going to tell you so again and hope I will not have to tell your again. I see it was Ma's fault that you sent it, but you should have let her grumble and not sent it. By your letters I see you have no money to send me and also you need it while I don't. I hope this money order I sent will reach you as early as possible and that I may be able to send some more soon.



You were speaking of Mrs. Krigbaum, Does she get any mail from Jake. I have heard from Jake since last summer and not at all from Wally since I came to France and Germany. You asked if I saw the Chaplain again. Yes I saw him the day I left Coblenz.

You say according to my letters that I was disappointed in the sights of Trier. Well I wasn't exactly disappointed with the sights as Trier is a very beautiful and historic place, but I was disappointed in seeing so many d--- M.P's. But talking of University heights and Picnics Point, I'll say that the worst hole in the U.S.A. is better than the best place over here.

Here is where your letter just about ends so I will close my letter also. With love and kisses to all I remain as ever your loving and affectionate son

Max

Hdq. Co. 18th Inf.

American E.F.



Siershan, Germany

June 5, 1919

Dear Folks,

Finally I am taking time to write a letter to let you know how everything is getting along with me and to wish you the best of luck in your new home, although I was sorry to hear that you had moved away from Madison.

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 fine.

As you no doubt know, I was on pass to France a couple of weeks ago. While on pass I wrote you two letters. One from ---Tille and the other from Tours. Did you get them alright?

I got back to the outfit the 26th of April after spending about a week in France and three days with Jake at Mayen, Germany.

I had a pretty good time and got the satchel I went after. On my way back I decided I would try and find Jake. I went to Mayen from Coblenz. I got there Saturday and left Monday. I found Jake and another boy I knew in Waco. I had a fine time and Jake and the other boy sure were glad to see me. I could hardly get away from them Monday as they wanted to stay awhile longer, but I had to go as I was already two days overdue. I got back and nothing was said so everything was alright. When I got back there was only one letter waiting for me. Since I came back I have had two more or rather three more letters. One was written saying that you were in Chicago looking for rooms and the other two are written from your new home. One of the letters was a special delivery. I have two letters here with me and they are dated the 14th and the 11th of May. I haven't been getting hardly any mail from you at all lately. In the last five weeks I have had about five letters from you and cant figure out why I do not get more.

When I received your letter from Chicago I was wondering why you wanted to go back to Chicago. I knew you had lots of reasons to move but I didn't expect you would go to Chicago. I sure hate to think that I will have to come back to a place where I am a stranger whereas in Madison I think I have quite a few friends. Well, Madison isn't so awful for from Chicago and to my estimation anything under 2000 miles is within walking distance. I only hope you are satisfied with your new location and that you you will continue to be satisfied.

In your letter of the 14th I see that you received an interesting souvenir from me. What was it? The only thing I can think of is that booklet about the trip up the Rhine.

According to your letter I see that you have nice rooms. I'm glad of that and hope you will think they are nice for more than a month this time.

By your letter I also see that you are going back into the Baker business again. All I want to say is that what ever you do, don't work to-o hard. Take it easy as good health is the most important thing in this life. If work gets too hard quit and try something else.

You say there are more opportunities in Chicago for Leo to get a job and to make money. I think he ought to be able to make as much and should be able to make quite a bit more than you as there is more money in the machinist trade than there is in the baker's trade. With what he ought to make I should think he would be willing to help bear a good share of the support of the family, as it is just as much benefit to him to see that the family get along alright, as it is to you. Well much for what ought to be done instead of being done. Only don't forget what I said of working too hard.

In your letter of the 11th of May, I see that you received a big long letter from me dated April 24th, and that you had plenty to read.



I am glad to hear that you already have a good job and get a fairly good wage, although as you say it ain't much according to the high cost of living. You say you work from 6 until 3:30. Is that during the day or night? You told me in your other letter that there is a legal nine hour working day. According to your letter you are working 9 ½ hours. What do you mean by working overtime? What are you trying to do, put that nine hours out of existence. You want to be careful or you'll soon be working 10 hours a day if you are already working 9 ½ .

I see Marcus joined the U.S. Cadet Corps. What kind of an Outfit are they. Anything like the Y.M.C.A. What do they do carry hot chocolate to the front line! Is there an enlistment period to it. I bet Marcus makes a good soldier, as I know he is a tough nut. I believe he looks tres bon in a uniform. Does he know what taps mean and does he obey it. Ask any soldier what taps is and he will tell you. Well this finishes the news in your letters so I will tell you what little news there is here.

I was put on special duty a week ago on the switch board here at Siershan that why I am here. I'm here because I'm here so to speak. Have had a snap all week. It is the first time I did any work. I was on duty from 2:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. and it will be four or five day more before I do any more work. Sure to sleep. There are four of us in a big room. Only one bed. Two sleep in the bed and two sleep on the floor. I sleep in the bed. I hope to ---. I do. I wonder how long this detail is going to last. I hope until we go home. The war you might say is over and there is no use in soldiering any longer.

Weather here has been very bad the last few days. Exceedingly cold and raining most of the time. At present it is raining but hope it will be nice tomorrow. How is the weather around Chicago?

Well it is getting time for old people as well as young people to go to bed, as it is now 11:45 P.M. I think I will hang up for this time.

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

Max

Best regard to Uncle, Aunt, Harry and the rest.

My address is still the same I have't been moving lately.

Headquarters Co. 18th Inf.

Signal Section

American E.F.

Germany



Date _____

A. P. O. _____

City _____

July 6, 1919
Siershahn

Dear Folks,

It is quite a while since I last wrote to you but today I am taking time to write and let you know how things are getting along over here.

It is now about three weeks since I wrote last and in that time I have had only two letters from you.

One letter was written the 8th of June and the other one Rose wrote on the 12th of June.

I could have written sooner that is in the last week, but I had a lazy spell and couldn't sit down and write a letter. The two weeks before that we couldn't send any mail. We could write but the letters wouldn't be accepted as we were on the move.

I hope this letter finds you all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling fine, although I haven't any ambition to work. At the company everybody is drilling but we on Special Duty are sitting on the work. I just got back last night from a two days visit to Coblenz.

Seeing that I haven't wrote for so long a time I had better tell you what has gone by in the last three weeks. That is so much as I can remember.

As you know doubt know, the Germans were given a certain time in which to sign peace. It was to be either peace or war. In order to be ready for the worst we had to move up to the outposts by the neutral zone. Orders were given out, you might say, without a moments notice, and we had to turn in all the extra equipment we had and pack up.

I had no idea we were going to leave, neither did any of the other boys on duty with me, so I went to Mogendorf to see if there was any mail. When I got there I saw everybody was just about ready to leave. I had about a truck load of stuff in the room I had in Mogendorf so I hurried over and packed it but saw no way of taking it along so I left it with the German woman to keep for me until I called for it. I have a whole satchel full of stuff I would like to get home but do not see how I am going to do it as they say we will not get barrack bags here to put our stuff into. I could send seven pounds at a time but it and I believe I would have to send about four or five packages to get it all and the postage is eighty four cents for seven pounds. At present I am financially embarrassed so will have to wait until I get some money before I can send it. Also it may go lost if I send it so I hardly know what to do.

Talking about packages didn't have you received the souvenirs I sent you sometime in May? I hope you received them alright as they were pretty good and are worth quite a bit and also cost quite a bit. As much as I can remember they cost two hundred marks and more and I wouldn't take three or four times as much for them. Please let me know if you receive the package alright.

After I packed up my belongings in Mogendorf I came back to Siershalm and rolled my pack. We left here about four o'clock in the afternoon and made a hike of about six kilometers and waited for trucks. We got trucks late in the evening, that is about 7:30 P.M. and rode until 10:30 P.M. when we unloaded and pitched pop tents in a clover field. Yes, slept in fields of clover. Sounds good doesn't it, but it wasn't so very good as it rained hard all that night. I didn't mind



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Army of Occupation

Date _____

A. P. O. _____

City _____

the rain as we had our tent put up good so sleep sound all night.

The next morning we got in the trucks again and moved up farther. We got off at a place called Georgeshausen and pitched tents in a rye field. The grain stood at least six feet tall and more. Here we spent eight more days in tents and five or six of the eight days we had rain. It sure was miserable weather. In the town were stationed men from the 26th Inf. also of the first Division. I met a boy that used to be in the 127th with me, also went to signal school with me. I spent quite a bit of my time with him as I had nothing else to do.

Saturday the 28th of May, we moved again. This time we went up to the Neutral Zone but did not cross. We stayed in the town of Niedererbach. We got in there about eleven A.M. and left the next day about eleven.

We were billeted in houses and expected to stay a while but we got news about seven thirty P.M. Saturday that peace was signed so that changed the plans.

The ten signal men were put in a little bit of a room, so I and another one of the boys went out and scouted a room. I found a good place for the two of us in the last house in the town and was expecting to take things easy but we left the next day.

Saturday evening there came an extra edition of the Third Army Newspaper telling us that Peace had been signed. About eight o'clock the General of the First Brigade came to our town and gave us a little speech and told us we would be going home in a few days. That was over a week ago but we are still here. According to the papers and to the rumors we will not leave before the end of September or sometime in October. It's a tough proposition to figure out, but we have to make the best of it.

Well we left Niedererbach Sunday morning and got back to Siershalm in the Afternoon. We set the telephone station up and again and everything is going on the same as usual, except that we have to work oftener. There were ten men here, five Signal Corps. and five Signal Section, but the Corps. men were called in so five of us are doing the work that ten use to do. I work every other day but that is better than drilling.

Friday was the 4th of July and I didn't have to work as one of the other boy's was on duty. I and another boy too a trip to Coblenz and had a pretty good time. They had a wonderful display of fire works on the Rhine that lasted about two and a half hours. They also fired a salute of forty eight guns at noon and at night a good deal of the celebration was centered at Fortress Ehrenbeitstein.

Today is Monday the sixth of July and I have been working since 7 A.M. and it is now about 4:30 P.M. I am making up the time I have lost. This is all the news up to date.

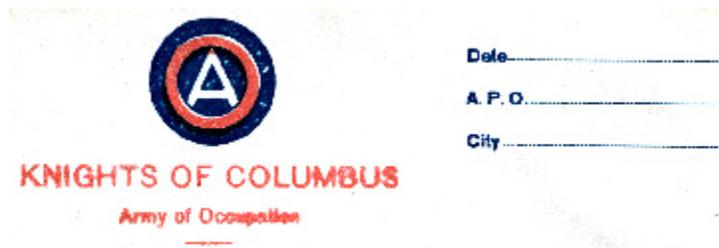
Weather here has been fair but quite rainy. How is the weather around Chicago. I am going to reread that old letter of yours and see if there is any questions you want answered.

I notice in this letter of yours from June 8th that you received three letters from me. One was from Somewhere in France. Where was it from Lo-Sur-Tille, or Tours? I wrote a letter in each of the two places. Did you get them both?

Well I have read your letter and see no questions to answer so this will almost end my letter for this time.

I will have to write Rose a letter in answer to hers. Did she get the last letter I wrote to her?

By the way Rose and Leo had Birthdays this month already I didn't even write a letter. You can tell them that I wish tem the best of luck in the world. I didn't send any presents as I told you before I was financially embarrassed, but



Rose ought to have that souvenir bracelet I sent by this time and she'll have to make that do for a birthday present this time. If there's something Leo wants in the packages he can help himself.

How is everything coming along at home now-a-days? Are you still on the same job or have you found a day job? How do you like Chicago now? Just as well as at first? I suppose by this time Rose and Mark are having vacation. What is Marcus going to do this vacation? Do the Cadets drill during vacation months?

How are all the folks in Chicago? Well this 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

*Headquarters G. 18th U.S. Inf.
Signal Section
American E.F.
Germany*

Best regards to everybody



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Army of Occupation

Date _____

A. P. O. _____

City _____

July 19, 1919

Mogendorf

Dear Folks,

Finally the ice has broke and I received a letter from you. I sure was glad to hear from you and that you are all well and in the best of health. For myself I can say that I am feeling fine and dandy.

I just got back from Setters this morning and have to go on guard at 4 P.M. It is 3:30 P.M. so I have't much time in which to write.

I wrote to you from Setters on Wednesday and hope you have received my letter already. We had a big blow-out yesterday in remembrance of July 18, 1918. That was the day of the Battle of Soissions. Sure had a good time although I spent a good deal of the time taking care of my horse.

They had all kinds of stands and booths decorated and everything looked fine.

The S.A. put out ice-cream and doughnuts while the Y.M.C.A. and K.C. put out sandwiches and coffee.

The program started out with a baseball game between the 1st and 3rd Division. The 3rd Division won by the score of 8 to 7. After that they had foot races. Then a tug of war for Y.M.C.A. women. Afterwards were the horse events. High and broad jumping and other sort of races. There also was competitive dancing and then to end things up there was a dance for everybody.

Well I have a little time now in which to write as I have been to Guadd Mount already and do not go on post until 8: P.M. News is not very plentiful around here.

Headquarters Co., expects to move out of Mogendorf on Wednesday and go to Montahaur. On account of the 2nd Division leaving we are taking over some of their old territory. The First Battalion of the 18th Inf. moved this afternoon.

Montahaur is about the larges town in this neighborhood and I think we like it better than here.

Weather has been very warm the last four days and hardly any rain. We had rain for about an hour yesterday evening but that had to be as we were trying to have a good time.

How is the weather around Chicago? Now I want to reread your letter and see if you want any questions answered. I sure am glad that you finally finished that letter or I might be waiting yet. It must have been a hard job to write that letter and I sure sympathize with you and also thank you very much for your efforts. I had to read clear through your letter and yet couldn't find anything that warrants any answer. You sure are't overstocked on news.

I sure hate to hear that you cannot find time enough to go out and have a good time. Also that you are working so hard. According to your letter you are work twelve or more hours a night. I thought you told me some time ago that there was a nine hour day for bakers. According to the hours you work, there was nothing in the law to the effect of how many hours a baker should work who work nights. The law only takes in those bakers who work days. I should think that the night working bakers would get together and have a nine hour night law passed for them. Where do you work, in some Jewish bakery?

Where does Leo work now? Can't he get a job in the machinist trade? Also what is Marcus doing now that he has vacation? Well this is about all for this time so I will close with love and kisses to all I remain as ever your loving and affectionate Son.

Max

Hdq. Co. 18th Inf.
American Forces in Germany

Best regards to everybody.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Army of Occupation

Date _____

A. P. O. _____

City _____

July 30, 1919

Montabaur

Dear Folks,

I have been in Montahaur now almost a week and finally am taking time now to write you a few lines to let you know how everything is over here.

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 fine.

We left Mogendorf, last Thursday the 24th of July and hiked to Montabaur. I wrote a letter to you the day before we left and told you that we were going to move.

A couple of days before that I also wrote a letter and sent a couple of packages home containing letters and photographs. I hope you have received them alright. One thing I am anxious to hear about is whether you received that package of souvenirs I sent sometime in May up to the present time. I haven't heard anything about them. In fact I haven't been receiving hardly any mail from you. Its so long a time since I heard from you that I believe you have forgotten that I still am over here. Do you write at least once a week or once every two weeks? By your last letter I see that it took three weeks to write so am wondering if you are working on another letter.

Well we got into Montabaur, Thursday morning and the Signal Section is billeted in the Germany Court House. A good many of the non-coms and some of the privates have gone out and got billets but some of the fellows are still here. I am here but have a good spring bunk so am not worrying.

Most all of the old fellows are on special duty and just the recruits are left. We have received quite a few recruits in the Signal Section and most all of them are kids. Wise birds, you can't tell them anything.

I have a new job just started in this morning and work in the Signal Supply rooms. Soft job. About all there is to do is to sit around and look wise.

News around here is not very plentiful and about all we hear is rumors. Last night an extra edition of the First Division paper came out and said that the first troops of the Division would begin to entrain about the 15th of August. I'm not betting a pfennig as to whether we go or not. When we get started I will believe we are on our way. When we land in the U.S., I will believe we are home.

Outside of that there is no news to tell except that I told paid a visit to the city of Wiesbaden last Saturday. Wiesbaden is a German city in the French territory, that is, where the French Army of Occupation is located. From Montabaur it is about 150 kilometers. Wiesbaden is what is known as a watering place or a health resort. They have mineral springs there n' everything. It is a very pretty city of over 100,000 population. I want to go again this coming Saturday that is if we are paid by then.

Weather around here has been and is very fine and hope you are enjoying some of the same kind.

How is everything around home now-a-days? How are all the folks getting along?

I met a couple of recruits here from Chicago and they say Chicago is a H--- of a place. Can't ever stand on the street corner without getting pinched. Also that there are thousands of boys without work. How about it?

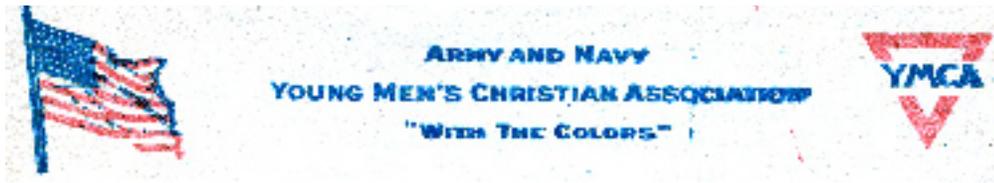
Well this is all for this time so will close with love and kisses to all I remain as ever your loving and affectionate

Son

Max

Headquarters Co., 18th Inf.

Signal Section American Forces in Germany



Camp Mead. Md.
Sept. 20, 1919

Dear Folks,

I wrote to you yesterday and the day before so am writing now just to let you know that everything is getting along alright here.

I received a letter from you day before yesterday and told you I received it in the letter I wrote to you yesterday.

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

News here is scarce and the only thing that I believe will be news to you is that I am supposed to leave here Monday and go to Camp Grant to await my discharge.

As I said above news is scarce here. The reason is that we are so far from any town or city. There is a small town about four miles from here and the next place is Baltimore, about eighteen miles away.

I went to a vaudeville show in Camp last night but it was no good. It was a shame to take the fifty cents admission.

This morning I washed a pretty good sized laundry. Only nine handkerchiefs, 1 pr. sock, one towel, two O.D. shirts and an Overseas Cap. I still have two towels to wash and probably another O.D. shirt.

We are to draw an overcoat before we get discharged and have a complete equipment. Whether we get it here or at Camp Grant I do not know. If we leave here Monday the 22nd I expect to be in Camp Grant by the 24th.

Well there is no more new that I know of that is worth while writing. I guess I will go over to the Officers Quarters and see if I can find the Lieutenant I am working for. I want to get some money off of him to buy a pair of Russet shoes. Yesterday I asked him to give me some money to go to Baltimore on and he told me to come over to his room and he would give me some. When I went to his room I couldn't find the son-of-a-gun so I didn't get to go to Baltimore. Now I am going to ask him again and instead of going to Baltimore I am going to buy a pair of shoes.

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

Max

Best regards to everybody.

P.S. I don't believe it would be a bad idea to address your mail to Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois. Same as always only instead of France or Germany, put Camp Grant.