

"WITH THE COLORS"

April 10th, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Received your real cheerful letter tonight. I am glad you entertained two boys of the service believe me I knew you would do it, when the occasion would arise. I received a long beautiful letter from Mr. McIlheny, who stated you had sang at the church with other members of the Fortnightly. I see that you are singing more now than when I was home. It affords you a great deal of real pleasure, Believe me you are some class singing at the Bellvue Stratford Hotel. Aunt Ethel stated in her letter, she was at the parade and how much of a crowd they had. Well when we come home for the big review you will have to hang on trees.

Colonel Brown returned to us last night and they gave him a big welcome. He is on a leave of absence home for a few days after his long training at Texas. He always was a fine built man, but you should see him now.

I believe there is to no secret of our movement from here to New York. It is only from there to our ship, that we are not allowed to write about. So if the chance arises I will drop that postal. The 108th Field Artillery, formerly the second regiment of Philadelphia has left, most likely for New York. Things are going along smoothly. We have had very cold and rainy weather the last few days. Sometime either this or next week we spend 48 hours in the trenches. The third battalion was out Monday and Tuesday. They said they had a very nice time, except the trenches were filling with about four inches of water.

Our company just received 35 drafted men to fill up our ranks, from Camp Lee. They are all Pittsburgh men. We have just lost three men, due to discharge and 12 men to go back on Bridge duty and farm work, undesirables they are classed. Some go in the home Guards.

After we get paid I am going to send my last package of stuff I dont need in a tin box by parcel post. Be on the lookout. In it is a large size brand new summer shirt, maybe Dad can use it at work. Put the leggins away.

Hoping all are well, I am,
Your loving son,
Howard.