

July 2, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

To-day received from a Sargeant friend of mine, a piece of a German baloon which was brought down outside of Paris. It was given to him by a Frenchman who helped to shoot it down, with anti aircraft gun. I am trusting this to the mails, hoping you will receive it, as I may lose it in the field. It will positively be enclosed in this envelope.

Yesterday they brought a German plane and driver down inside our lines. They are holding him a prisoner. I have not asyet been able to see it. Expect to real soon.

The French Cities here, especially Paris are making huge preparations to make a big celebration on the Fourth of July. As yet have not received any mail for nearly five weeks. A bunch is laying at the base awaiting sorting and shipment from paris.

I have just learned something new and you can do with it as you like. Have you had any trouble in sending the stuff I have asked for? If you can't send the stuff here is my proposition. Anything bought in "John Wanamaker's" store can be paid for and calbed across to his Paris branch, from there it is sent to my Company. You can ask for information at some reliable place in the store and see what you can do. These things are what I need badly and then what would help make things pleasant and which the Paris branch handles. The Phila. branch will have a list of what can be bought.

Things badly needed;

1. White handled razor
1. Large strong many bladed knife
1. Reliable watch, either wrist or pocket
1. Pipe lighter, or cigar either

Luxuries desired:

- 1 box of cigars
- 2 lbs. candy

These things I am positive they carry I can't possibly buy them as I can't get in Paris. Only Officers are allowed. No passes are issued to us. Use your own judgment.

I met Harry Hornikel Sunday, in fact several days a week and he has several German trophies. One is a German war cross, which has on "Gott Mit uns", God with us. It is a huge affair. He also has a large number of French photographs, received from Frenchmen.

I am going to go to bed now, so will close. Hoping all are well and believe me I am wishing Mother a happy and pleasant birthday with all the best wishes in the world, from

Your loving son,

Howard.

P. S. My mustache is coming along fine

--- good and fine
two meanings