

Monday, June 17th, 1918.

In the Field

Somewhere in France

Dear Mother and Dad;

Since I last wrote I have hiked about 60 miles and passed over a good distance of Country. We have not stayed in one place more than 16 hours in the last 9 days. At last we are settled for a few days only.

Saturday night we were bombed by German planes. I have some sourveiers to show for it. We have not received any mail for two weeks nor been paid for three months. Naturally I am broke. In fact everybody is. We can't buy soap and can get no issue. Not having any money wouldn't be so bad if it was not for the fact that in passing through a town they had chocolate for sale and I could not get any.

In letter #1 I sent for some chocolate and tobacco also a heavy many bladed knife and a good straight razor, with a white handle. Paper is very scarce, so I am taking up every bit of room. Be sure and send these things. Take letter to post office and show postmaster. I also asked for some cigars and send a box if you please. Everywhere in France tobacco is checked and only issued by the French Government with checks. These things cannot even be bought in the large cities.

Tell Aunt Helen I received her letter to Camp Upton but have not received the mouth organs. If they have been sent back from Upton show her this letter and my requesting them, also some cigars and chocolates if she wishes. Any of my friends who desire to send me some stuff, let me know who they are and I will write and request something.

To-day I am going to write Bill. When you get this letter ask him if he has received it as yet. Be sure and tell the folks and my boy and girl friends to write to me. When we get mail here it comes in a bunch.

I am now becoming quite a cook since sometimes we cook our own mess. The other day we camouflaged some onions and potatoes, a can of corn beef (can willie) and some hard tack (Bricks or Irish Confetti) and then made some tea. It made about the best meal I have had for a month. I put the beef in a pan and made dried beef with cream (water) and fried potatoes. A good meal.

I suppose by now Jock is quite some pup and Finkie is still as frisky as she always was. How are your own dear selves and Ma, also Aunt Ella and all my Aunts and Uncles? I suppose in a few days I will get a bunch of letters and they will tell me all about you. Has Grandma received my letter as yet?

When I come home I will be able to tell you all about my travels and fighting as I am keeping up my diary and it has been censored by the Officer. I suppose you read about the ship we came over on being rammed by another transport, putting a good size hole in her and knocking gun off rear of other ship.

I am still well and safe and hope everybody is the same. Give my love to everybody. Regards to Mr. McIlheny and Miss Fretzinger. Regards also to Mr. and Mrs. Ryle.

As ever and always,

Your loving son,

Howard.