

"WITH THE COLORS"

March 22, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Received both letters tonight. Mail is a little bit more regular then before. Your reference to a cheese cake pie nearly set me into hysterics. The past two weeks we have been eating miserable and everybody in the company has been complaining. The good meals being far apart and little enough then.

The young man who came down with George Mathiews was a Jewish fellow, Charles Fine of our company. Maybe I didn't speak of the cake but it certainly was fine. I divided over three quarters of it among the fellows. Poor suckers, like me, have been broke for two weeks. They have delayed the pay so far two weeks and that is the reason everybody is stranded.

Here is something real funny, That is, the way it appeared to me. All the fellows hang around for the mail and any body who gets a registered or special delivery letter is at once besieged by the fellows in case he has received some money, then they try to borrow two bits or a dollar. Grandmother sent me an Easter Greeting card in a special delivery letter and when it arrived the fellows all crowded around and some said. Remember me Munder, give me two bits. Some only wanted a dime. Some just a pack of cigarettes. They all leaned over in a watching circle and I cut the envelope. Enclosed was just the Easter Card. You should have heard the howls of disappointment.

I just wish you could see the gang of nuts including myself, in our tent. There is Dutch and I, some pair alone and three other fellows. The tent we are in is at the head of the street and is used partly for supplies. There is only to be three fellows all told, in the tent. We are quite comfortable I will not mail this letter till I receive some more word. Enclosed you will find Grandmothers letter in answer to hers.

Friday

Today start in special bayonet school. I now have a rifle and bayonet of my own besides the pistol. Tonight we go out to the trenches and have bayonet attacks, rifle target practice and sham battles. All this of course is to be done in the middle of the night. Today I am to get a pair of field glasses valued at \$70.00. They are to be my property till discharged and are to be used in figuring out distances, range for rifle fire and signals.

Will tell you all about it later. As ever

Lovingly,

Howard.