March 22nd 1918.

Darling Marie:-

Well, here I am, still in quarters with bandage, but very much better. In fact I am thinking of getting rash and going to work tomorrow. It has been a long long time since I have had a letter from you dear. Some of our ships are taking an unusually long time to cross the pond I guess. But I am sure that in a short time, maybe today, some letters will be coming through from you and they will amply repay me for all my waiting. The last two days have been very rainy and miserable. This morning when we got up at reveille, it was foggy and cold, but now has cleared off and is a fine

by beautiful day again. The sun certainly can shine in this country. It is hard to realize that it is a war ridden country - every thing is so peaceful and quiet in this beautiful valley. But it is, as you can easily determine if you stop to listen a bit, to catch the roar of the big guns up at the front. They are banging away nearly all the time and keeps us in constant knowledge that there is a little war going on around here somewhere.

I received two more papers from home yesterday, one of them containing notice of my arrival in France and the other containing the

interview of mr. T. J. O'Brien's regarding the prospective duration of the war, in his opinion. His opinion must be taken seriously and I hope he is correct. I feel about the same way and still feel that it is the most logical reasoning I have heard regarding the situation. When mr. O'Brien returns home tell him I will buy him a good dinner when I return, if his guess proves to be correct.

I notice in the papers, that Grand Rapids will probably be fortunate enough to

avoid a flood this year in spite of the unusually heavy snowfall. It will be a Godsend if true, because a flood would really seriously cripple things there on account of other conditions. Furniture business remains about normal doesn't it dearest.? The reports indicate as much, at least. I think that is quite remarkable too.

Lieutenant Barker from Detroit was up to see me yesterday and I showed him his picture in the paper. When he was reading the Detroit paper and smoking a D. A. C. cigarette, he said

he felt almost as if he were at home. I tell you these cigarettes do taste good and I am very sparing with them. I only smoke one or two of them a day.

Some of the men are going to Paris in a day or two. I might have gone also but am not because it would be too expensive a trip. They are all going down to get clothes or something else of an expensive nature and I don't need any of those things anyway.

This camp is very nearly completed now and then I presume we will move on. I am wondering whether we

next work will be hospital work or engineer work. Very likely the latter inasmuch as we have proven to be good engineers on this job. One of the engineer officers told the Major we were doing better work than their own men, but I presume it was a little well meant "hot air" simply to stimulate us to greater efforts.

Lieutenant Stanley wants me to ask you if you will get a "Twinplex" razor blade sharpener for him. He will pay me for it. I think they cost about $3.00 but I

are not sure. If it will be any trouble for you don't bother dear, but it will be very much appreciated by him if you can.

I wrote a letter to the Wallis's yesterday and also to the Somerset girls, thanking them all for the parcels I received from them the other day. So you won't need to call them up after all, unless you want to.

I am glad Ted is back home again dear. She is lots of company for you and I know it must be more pleasant for you than when

you are alone. Give my dear sister my love and a big kiss for me dear. Kiss my babies and tell them Daddy loves them. With my dearest love to you sweet, and worlds of it.

A.B.

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