

Jan. 3d 17.

My Darling Wife, Kiddies, and Tud:-

Well, I am not as near to home as I was once, but am not as far as I will be soon. To say I have been busy is putting it very mildly. I have gone crazy with work. Work, work, work, morning, noon and night. The two nights we were on the train I was working nearly all night, which would account for the fact that I did not write on the train, had the Major permitted it, which he did not. No letters were allowed even to be written on the train, and just today I found out that I could write home from here if I would avoid a few specified subjects. I could hardly wait to get back here Honey dear, to start my first letter to you in three days. And I am literally stealing the time to do it for I have so much to do I don't know where to begin. I had

to attend to the feeding of 200 men on the train and they were all in the last 5 coaches of a 16 coach train, while all the food was up in the first baggage car. Can you see what I was up against now dear?

It was really about as strenuous work as I have ever done and kept me going every minute. But I got by with it, and wonder of wonders, I drew a complimentary remark from the K.O. Just one hour before we got on the train I got the New Year's box from you and Tud. I want to tell you Dearest, that that box was the nearest things to a real life saver that I have ever in my young life seen. It was wonderful dear, and we all enjoyed everything in it to the

utmost. I think you made it up of mighty well selected things. Every single thing I liked was in the box. The cake, cookies and peanuts were delicious and you know what I think of that currant jelly and corn relish. It came in most handily for the officer's mess on the train. This trip has been very interesting to me and also productive of much experience.

This camp is located somewhere near New York. I have no clear idea where for I haven't had time even to look at a map since I arrived here. There are no points of interest about it to describe even if I were permitted to describe them.

The length of time I will be here I can not tell you, but expect my mail to be irregular from now on until I am settled. You can always remember that if anything should happen to me dear you are sure to hear of it at once, and that will keep you happy till you get my next letter.

I got your telegrams and the money. You rascal – I didn't need it and told you so over the phone, - and by the way – it was certainly sweet of you to phone. It made me feel a lot better for I was rather blue at the time. I tell you Honey dear, I do love my wife.

Well, I will resume. I didn't need the money and was much surprised to get it but I will take it over and keep it for emergencies, until I get my first check over there and then will send back what is left perhaps along with some more. Has the Government sent you your \$110.00 check yet? I want to know when you get it dear, so don't fail to let me hear from you.

It is terribly cold here. I have never ceased to be thankful that the men got the helmets you sent them. They sure do appreciate them now – in fact they would suffer

terribly with out them. Our quarters here are very comfortable. We have separate rooms – steam heated – and a cot with a spring on it. I really wouldn't mind staying here all the time. It's a lot more comfortable than it is at Ft. Benjamin Harrison I can tell you.

Sweetheart, I wish you would call up Jessie Degen (that's the way she signed her letter to me) and thank her for the sox. Tell her why I don't write and also that the sox fit fine. It was mighty nice of her to send it. Also call up Anna Hessman's sister, Mrs. Wiesman

4.

and thank her for the paper clip  
she and her husband sent me  
for Christmas. It was the  
darndest looking brass thing  
I ever saw, but still it was  
nice of them to remember me.

Remember me to all my  
dear friends. I am fine and  
well. Never felt better in  
my life. Weigh 176 still and  
can eat tacks I am so strong.

You will no doubt hear from  
Fisher soon. He is still in the  
Hospital at Benj. Harrison, and  
the poor kid has got T.B. The  
last slides he had made were  
positive. I went over to say  
good bye to him the morning of

the day we left and I sure did  
feel sorry for the boy. Don't  
let him hold or kiss the babies  
if he comes to see you all.  
It wouldn't be safe. Dear little  
ones. How are they both? I'd give  
all I have or ever expect to  
have to see all you, my dear  
ones. I have your pictures  
on my shelf and I tell you  
darling, I don't know what I'd  
do without them. The last one  
makes me think of the wonder-  
ful Christmas we had in  
Indianapolis. Wasn't it fine  
dearest? I shall never forget  
it as long as I live and I  
don't believe you will either.



5.

Well I must close and go to  
work. Let me hear from you.  
Keep well – take good care of  
yourself and the kiddies. Don't  
be afraid to go to the Wallace's  
for help. Give my love to  
Tud and all, and give them  
all kisses from me. Tell my  
babies I love them. With all  
my love to you dear and millions  
of kisses, I am

Your Daddy