May 18 1918

My Dearest Marie:

Well Honey, today I sent your Christmas toy. We are in a part of France where some of these laces are made and as I saw them being made I thought you might like to have them. I will give you a list of what I sent so you can check it off and will know for whom each article is.

1. Large lace collar for little Marie
1. Small lace collar for brother. These I thought you could use on their little coats this summer.
1. Embroidered kerchief for Mary.
1. " for Margaret. I couldn't forget the two most faithful girls in the world.
1. Boudoir cap for Ted. I could think of nothing she would like better and I hope she likes it. I know it is all hand work for I saw it being done.
1. Lace handkerchief.
1. Chemise and 1 waist for you
mother dear, and I do hope you will like them and not think I spent my money foolishly. You can know though that even if the things are not in good taste and I am no good as a shopper for women's lingerie, all the love in my heart comes to you with them and maybe you can use them for dust cloths or something of that sort.

Really dear, they are very cheap over here and if you do like them let me know and I will get more things. There are some very beautiful lace lunch sets and embroidered lunch cloths, and lace dresses for children and lots of things. I am going to go on picking up these things from time to time and if you don't like them send me word at once to stop. I am glad I am sending you the "poutache" braid I think they call it — but it is clever to see them sew it on. There is so very little over here that one can buy new except in Paris and I don't know when we will get there, so I can just get what there is to get and I do so hope you
will like it and not have a great big laugh at my expense when you get it.
The last boxes I got from you are certainly wonderful dear. Nothing has lasted so wonderful since I have been in France as that nut nougat loaf and the salted nuts and peanut candy and all. It was all so fresh. I am going to send a little list of things I really need. The list needs only to be signed by a commissioned officer so Major Lytle's signature will not be necessary.

It has cleared up today and is wonderfully warm and summer like today. I am not wearing BVDC's yet because I have only one pair but when others come through I am going to begin wearing them as it is certainly warm enough now. I got your letter enclosing the one from Mac regarding stocks and read it very carefully. There is no doubt that the American Express is a good stock and it wise.
always be a good stock. I believe that
an investment in 100 shares of it would
be a wise thing for you to do for it
would not take all of your capital
and would still leave a good sum in
W.S. I. I have never believed in having
all your eggs in one basket. It doesn't
pay. It is not a good time to sell your
W.S. I. The price is always down at
this time of year. While the season is
on it will strengthen and probably
you will be able to get more than
par for it. It is not as safe a stock
as the Am. St. & Tr. in my opinion
although an excellent stock. I don't like
the management and would like to see
you switch all the remainder of your
holdings in it to Globe Knitting or
some other such stock. That sugar
stock is a wonderfully good buy
at the present price too. Talk with
Dave and E. A. Wallace before
you do anything, but I am in
favor of you splitting up your
holdings into different things.
To take this up with Mr. Wallace,
and Dave and read them this letter to let
them know what I think of it.
Things are still quiet around here.
It is going to be beautiful when it
clears up and summer comes, but God
knows how. I wish this summer could
be spent at home with you dears.
I am going to be the happiest man in
the world some day but it seems that
that day is a long time coming. I
haven't heard from Jack for a long
time but have heard from his regiment
and they have been sending things
all right. I wish mail would come
from him more regularly and then
I wouldn't worry about him so
much. Our mail comes quite
regularly now but I am not
getting very much for some
unknown reason. It is probably
held up somewhere and I wish
get it all in a bunch.
I have met some officers
from Flint, Michigan who used to know Blanche Miller.

Well, Darling, I am going to close today. I will write more tomorrow. My parcel has already gone and with it I know you all. Kiss my darling babies and Ted and tell them all how much I love them. With dearest love to you, God bless you little girl, I am your loving, "M.B."

Yours, [Signature]

I.R. Hovey Postmark 11/10/01.