January 14th, 1919.

Marie Darling:

I must tell you dear, in spite of my chagrin, that I am either the cosiest man in France, or have the most fleas, and I am inclined to believe it is the latter, because Tuncun can find the little devils. At any rate I am very cared for by my unwelcome pets and am covered from head to foot with bites that very nearly drive me wild with itching, and I am taking from one to three hot baths each day so it is not melancholy, that I know. It is more or less reassuring that all the officers have the same trouble and the men too, so I am not alone in my sufferings.

We got thirty-five more men last night from another hospital
here, and it has again increased the work of the office so we will have a lot of trouble catching up. One of our old officers left Des Jardins, whom you will remember I wrote of often from Baccarat rejoined us last night from Reims. He says that it is probable that we may get away from here sometime in April or May, and if that proves true we will not suffer at all. I will be satisfied if we can start home then. Dear, for that is not so very long to wait. 24

I have been waiting already. 24 will certainly be a lot sooner than I had any hopes
If returning and so I can't complain.
However I won't believe I'm
going home, until I get there.
It is not wise to be sure of
anything in the Army.
It is still very mild and
beautiful weather. It seems
so strange for the winter
months to be so warm. Not
a sign of winter exists any
where, and it looks as if there
would be no winter.
I have not yet had a chance
to go downtown and see very
much of the town. It is
all I can do to keep things
going around here but sooner
or later I will explore. I am
going across the Rhine at
the first opportunity to see Fort Ehrenbreitstein and the city from the hills over there. The Rhine and Moselle valleys at this point are very beautiful. I am collecting picture postcards of the region and they will take the place of camera pictures which are still forbidden. I will probably get an opportunity to use my camera only when we are on the way home, and by that time my films will probably be spoiled.

I got two letters from you yesterday, dear, of old date but believe me I was glad to get them.
from you are my best Christ
was present, no matter when
they were written. One of them
shocked me terribly with the
news of Mrs. Von Platius death.
It was a terrible thing and
I am so sorry for Mr. Von
Platius and the poor children.
I also received a nice
letter from Dad. He had had
influenza and has been
quite sick, but is all well
again. I have indeed been
most fortunate that none
of my family have had ser-
ious trouble since I left
home. and from the very
bottom of my heart I thank
God for His goodness. It is
a wonderful blessing to have
good health, isn't it dearest?

Well, I must close now. Don't
write again tomorrow. I love
you dearest with all my heart
and soul. I love you, with
loads of love and kisses to you
my dear wife, and my darling
babies and Glad.

Daddy

[Address]
Capt. U.S.O.
Base Hosp. #3, U.S.A.
Auer. 0. F. Berney.

P.S. I hope good for our legs.
Stock doesn't it dear?