January 11th, 1917

My Dearest Marie:

It is now eleven thirty and I am just able to sit down to write. I have been feeling rather blue all the morning for I have been making arrangements for the funeral of Private Peter Freeman who died yesterday evening, and who is the first man of our original organization to die. He was a fine soldier and much liked by all of us, and we feel his loss very keenly. So dear girl you can see that our duties today are not as pleasant, but are tinged with sorrow. His funeral is to be tomorrow and I am going to take the whole Company out to do his honor. God bless his poor mother and sister.

Last night I went down
to the club again with Roy
and found that there was a
distinguished visitor in the Private
of Nobles. He didn't worry us
much however as we got
interested in a billiard game
and played until ten o'clock.
It was beautiful moonlight
when we came home and I
couldn't help but think of the
moonlight nights in August,
September and October, when
"Jerry" used to come over and
book us every night. I didn't
think quite as much of the
moon then, as my letter
of that period will prove.

It is different now. The
moon is once more appre-
ciated as a thing of beauty
instead of a thing to be feared.
There are lots of planes overhead all the time but they are all Allied planes and it is a much more comfortable feeling to know that to be true. I don't tire of watching them. They do all sorts of exciting stunts and keep one's heart in one's mouth all the time while watching them.

I received packages 2 and 3 of knitwear goods yesterday afternoon. And the things are certainly wonderful dear. I can't thank you enough for the socks and sweater. I am keeping for myself the sweater you knit and the 2 you described as having been knit by you and Glad, and the other have gone to men in the
Detachment who needed them and who thank you most gratefully for them. I have everything I will need for a year in the line of coat and sweaters. I have you dear.

There are lots of rumors around that we are going to be relieved to go home in the near future. Of course there are only rumors and I have no confidence whatever in them. I imagine we will be here as long as there is an Army of Occupation but we may be relieved before that. I am not going to believe we are going home unless I am on the way and under orders for I don't want to
be disappointed about a matter which means so much to me. It is the hardest thing I ever have had to do, to keep cheerful and in a pleasant frame of mind while waiting for orders. I am as anxious to go home. But there are thousands of others here who are just as anxious as I try to console myself with the knowledge that I'm not the only one.

I am surprised dearest, that you are having so many fits. Are you drinking again? That's an absurd question to ask anyone who is living in Michigan? Sent it? You must be careful dearest for you will injure yourself severely some.
time and that is something I
don't want to have happen. If
I take care of myself, you must
do the same till I am back,
and then we will take care
of each other.

Well I will close till to-
morrow darling. I love you
dear with all my heart and
soul. With love and kisses by
the ton to see of you at home.
I am your loving

Daddy

Amer. Bt. E. Capt. W.E.
Evac. Hoop. 2 U.S.A.
Amer. E.E. Germany.