

A Letter From the Trenches

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A Letter From the Trenches

Somewhere in Belgium July 30th, 1918

Dear sister Madaline:

I received your three letters dated June 21st, 25th and 30th and believe me dear sister I am very _____Noun_____to see that you have been so _____Noun_____to me in writing as often as you have. I haven't written you in weeks although of course it wasn't my fault as I have been through practically everything since we left France. You all have been _____Noun_____my mind and my every thought is of you all back home. I _____Noun_____quite a few _____Noun_____from John and Anna and as soon as I reach my rest camp I _____Noun_____write you a nice long letter. This letter that I am writing you is being written in the line where shot and shell have been and are falling all around _____Noun_____. My experiences have been great and many since I came into the line some days ago. I have been in the front line where right in front of us lied the dirty Huns front line and "no man's" _____Noun_____.

Now dear sister if the censor permits I will _____^{Noun} you a few of my many adventures and _____^{Noun}.

The trenches which we have _____^{Noun} have been waist deep with mud and water and more rain showed up

every _____^{Noun}. We rested during our _____^{Noun} periods in small dugouts known as "bivys". My first

nights sleep was in a shell _____^{Noun} wear rats and other animals visited us both day and night. About thirty

yards to the rear of us could be seen a dead Hun who was shot just above the waist line in the rear. I

_____^{Noun} him personally during the day and cut one button off his coat for a souvenir [Several lines

removed by Censor].

Its _____^{Noun} me to tell you of the mans condition as he lies their on "No Man's Land"; but you can imagine

a person _____^{Noun} on a _____^{Noun} perhaps at least two weeks. He was _____^{Noun} during the raid and

advance of the british _____^{Noun} a little over two weeks ago. The poor _____^{Noun} was only about sixteen

or seventeen years old but _____^{Noun} rather large for his age. I _____^{Noun} over what is known as death

valley and expect to _____^{Noun} over same again soon.

That's all about the front line but now for the reserve. We were all _____^{Noun} out and anxiously waiting mess
time and sleeping _____^{Noun}. We rested all night and part of the _____^{Noun} and when I awoke I found
myself cootied up. It is not very _____^{Noun} to talk about but I want you all to know about my experiences.
Our _____^{Noun} list was small and I came out into the reserve in the best of condition except for a pair of
water soken feet. That's about all of my _____^{Noun} except a few things which I _____^{Noun} the censor
would pass on but sometime as soon as I can get details that will allow me why I will try and tell you in one of
my coming _____^{Noun}.

I know dear sister that very _____^{Noun} we will move up to the _____^{Noun} line but I have no fear as its
either me or him. But just now its him as I have a few special _____^{Noun} which I think have at least one
_____^{Noun} name on it and that means no _____^{Noun} for him (hun) but sure death. I have seen while
looking over the _____^{Noun} a few hun soldiers out on working party but as soon as we let fly with both gun
and bomb you ought to of seen poor Jerry (as the english call him) run and get off. We do our own
_____^{Noun} and

a mixture of beans, corn beef and potatoes is nothing too strong for us. Our rations are great but a shortage of water is our greatest enemy.

As yet I did not receive my photos that I had taken recently but will send you one as soon as I receive it. Oh yes I received Bob's picture and he surely looks great. Dear sister you know Bob and Baby are my great _____^{Noun} and do everything in our _____^{Noun} to make them _____^{Noun}. I know dear sister that you are and always will do everything in your power for Pa, Baby and Bob but for my sake see that Pa does not _____^{Noun}. Guess I will close now as I think I have said about all I know, I am

Your Brother

Joe

P.S. Love and _____^{Noun} to you all my friends. Enclosed find button and picture card for Bob. As yet I did not receive the stars but have a letter ready except for corrections which I will write to our paper.