

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 _____ to see that you have been so _____ 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 _____ my mind and my every thought is of you all back home. I _____ quite a few _____ from John and Anna and as soon as I reach my rest camp I _____ 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 _____. 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 _____".

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 _____ out and anxiously waiting mess time and sleeping _____. We rested all night and part of the _____ and when I awoke I found myself cootied up. It is not very _____ to talk about but I want you all to know about my experiences. Our _____ 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 _____ except a few things which I _____ 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 _____.

I know dear sister that very _____ we will move up to the _____ line but I have no fear as its either me or him. But just now its him as I have a few special _____ which I think have at least one _____ name on it and that means no _____ for him (hun) but sure death. I have seen while looking over the _____ 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 _____ and

a mixture of beans, corn beef and potatoes is nothing to strong for us. Our rashions 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 you 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.