

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> to see that you have been so \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> my mind and my every thought is of you all back home. I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> quite a few \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> from John and Anna and as soon as I reach my rest camp I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>. 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>.

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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_out and anxiously waiting mess  
time and sleeping \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. We rested all night and part of the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_and when I awoke I found  
myself cootied up. It is not very \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_to talk about but I want you all to know about my experiences.  
Our \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_except a few things which I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

I know dear sister that very \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_we will move up to the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_line but I have no fear as its  
either me or him. But just now its him as I have a few special \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_which I think have at least one  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_name on it and that means no \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_for him (hun) but sure death. I have seen while  
looking over the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_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  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>\_\_\_\_\_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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> and do everything in our \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> to make them \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>. 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>. Guess I will close now as I think I have said about all I know, I am

Your Brother

Joe

P.S. Love and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup> 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.