

Mayen, Germany
Dec. 21 - 1918

Dear Stella:

I just received your letter of 11/25 and you don't know how glad I am to get a letter like that for I tell you it gets rather lonely here sometimes when a fellow can't understand this slush talk. The people here have been mighty good to us boys of course it is understood that they want to get all they can out of us while we are here. Last night was the first time I have slept in a real bed since I have been on this side of the pond and when I went into the room I didn't know whether to take my clothes off and go to bed or jump in with them on still. After I get back and tell you a few things that has happened you will understand.

There is a good many Red Cross nurses in town now and I tell you it seems good to go along the street and have an American girl speak to you. There was one month that we didn't hardly know what it was to see a woman of any type.

You asked me when I thought I would
be back. Well that is a very hard thing
to say we can hear every thing about going
back but to tell the truth we don't know
anything about it I am living in suspense.
I really don't think that we will make any
move in that direction until after peace
is signed and God only knows when
that will be. I will never forget the day
and time when the last shot was fired
for three days and nights it had been
a continuous roar of guns until the boom
came for the last ~~and~~^{after} then every thing
was quite until the commenced shooting
of the mines that ~~the Germans had~~
~~laid~~ and had to tell where they were.

I wish I could get some picture of some
of the places along the Meuse & Marne
front when I have been and along the
river running through the Argonne forest but
haven't seen any of them. I guess you people
will see them in the movies before we do.
I didn't expect to get out of France as soon
as we did we were only two days from
the time we started until we were in Germany
of course we had been on the soil that they
took from France in 1914 for a long time
but what I meant was Germany its self.

Well I hope that you have been getting
 more of my letters lately then you did for
 a while I have been able to tell you more
 in the last few letters. I don't much like
 to have heard and seen what was going
 on in the States on November 12th. but I
 sure would have felt bad if I hadn't
 get to come over here. I think I will soon
 know what it is to have a good home and to be
 with people that I can talk to and know.
 You were speaking about Thomas small I
 don't know yet what we are going to
 have for dinner but I do know that I
 will have to get some for five hundred
 men that stay or offcious that it will
 be a very busy time for me but will
 have the afternoon to myself and I
 am sure I won't forget the folks at
 they won't receive any Thomas presents
 from me but I won't forget them when
 I get home.

I just got a letter from Edel today saying
 that one of the Reitins boys from Oakdale
 had been killed over here and the two
 others boys had been wounded was very
 sorry to hear that but of course it is to
 be expected. I think my self very lucky
 to pass through so far without a

desolate although it looks mighty dark at times especially when one of those big S. d. cans would drop just a little ways off and would shake the earth and then you would wonder where the next one was going to land but I am glad these days are over.

I will tell you what we are with perhaps you may see something in the paper so you will know more about when I will be home then I do. We are in the Fourth Army Corps but in the Third Army there is less division in this bunch but am not supposed to tell what ones but they are some of the closest ones in France. We also are in the Army of Occupation and for that reason we may be some time before we get back but lets hope not.

I am glad to know that your girls are getting along so well at dancing and hope that you don't happen to any bad luck. I knew that it is bad when there is so much drinking going on. Will ring off for this time as it is getting late and I have to get up at four thirty in the morning.

Your old friend,

Walter.

P.S. Dec. 22. Sunday night just received my Comas package and sure was glad to get something from home again. I think the knife and match box is fine and they come in handy for as it happened I had matches. I thank you ^{girls} for the time and and will remember you when I get back. I got something for you the other day but thought I would wait and by it for sending is so uncertain from here. I hope it won't be so