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[http://archives.ubalt.edu](http://archives.ubalt.edu)
Dear Major John:

I am writing this in the YMCA in London at 10 o'clock in the morning. We are on our way to Sandwell, Kent, and we have to wait until 5 o'clock for the train. So I will write a few lines and let you know that I arrived here safely and I am greatly interested in what I have seen and what I expect to see.

Our entire convoy arrived safely at their various destinations; only one submarine was seen, four ships were fired at that one but I don't know whether it was hit or not. We were on the boat 24 days. I was certainly glad to get off. We had splendid weather all the way over but nevertheless I was seasick for 7 or 8 days and it certainly was an unpleasant experience. The food we got on that boat was punk and while I was seasick, I missed about 6 or 7 meals.

Out of the 45 fellows who came over about 40 were American, before they enlisted. When we first got on the boat I thought I was the only one from the States, but before the trip was over I found that almost all of them were the U.S.
Here in London you can get only war bread and I think it is better than the ordinary bread. I have seen women working in the railway stations doing men's work. The streets are quite dark and the few lights that are to be seen are so fixed as to throw all their light down and not up. There are many other things to be seen which impress one with the fact that the nation is at war. It is quite different from the States.

Well I will close and write you a regular letter when I get settled in camp. With love.

Fred.

My address:
F. W. T., Royal Eng.
Stoner Camp
Sandwich
Kent, Eng.
Sandwich Eng.,
Jan. 12-13, 1918

Dear Maizie and John:—I have so much to write about that I nearly
know where to begin. I can not
tell you everything because much of
it would then be censored.

We were on the boat twenty-four
days and of the twenty-four I was
seasick seven. We had very good
weather and very good luck for our
entire convoy arrived safely.

I kept a diary on the way over,
but I won't send it to you because
it is too full of details which probably are of military value and would therefore be censored.

Christmas and New Years on the boat did not amount to much; every day was the same as every other.

When we landed we started right for camp. We went thru Bristol and London and as you know we stayed at the Y.M.C.A. for a few hours. While there I walked across London bridge. We arrived at camp at 10:30 yesterday morning.
We went to the classification office and I still continue to be classified as a tailor.

Today we received our haversacks and some further equipment including cartridge belts but I guess we won't have any occasions to use the latter.

We can hear the big guns over in Europe they keep pounding away day and night. There is an airport near here and airplanes are constantly flying overhead. I have seen them do some of the stunts that you read...
about, loop-the-loop, resting upside-down and turning over from left to right.

I have gotten my first shot in the arm," but I haven't felt any bad effects yet.

We are supposed to get 10 days leave and when to get mine I am going to London. I am also going to try and see Canterbury Cathedral, I saw it from the train window when I came here.

I have paid 15/6 in a War Certificate, that is equivalent to
$3,72 at the end of five years it will be worth $2. ($4.80)

It is a good way to save money and I think I will put a little more money in Certificats.

Food is very scarce over here but the price isn't as high as you would imagine it to be. Sugar is very scarce and it is about 25¢ a pound. Candy is also scarce the only kind I have been able to buy is chocolate.

I hope John, that you have gotten a commission because I know now that as a private
you would be dissatisfied and I believe justly so for you have the stuff in you to make a good officer. I have seen a few since I enlisted and I know "where of I speak." If that one prospect has fallen flat take steps to secure a commission in some other branch of the service. I am satisfied to be in the ranks but I am sure you wouldn't be.

I hope Jane is well and she hasn't any cold. I guess Santa Claus bought her some of the many toys she used to rely on
was going to bring. Santa is quite reliable.

Let me know about Frank and tell me some of the Philly news.

I am in good shape now and I am feeling fine. I hope I get sent to France after awhile. I don't want to stay in England all the time. Now on the service.

Well I'll close with lots of love.

My address
#346414 Sapper Fred Bachman
D Co., Stonor Camp
Hut 46 Sandwic
Kent Eng.
Dear Maicie & John-

I am still in camp doing about six hours a day drilling. I will probably get my 10 days leave in a couple of weeks. I must still get another "shot in the arm" and I must also be vaccinated. The weather is very disagreeable when it isn't raining it is snowing and the snow melts as fast as it touches the ground, so we are wading through mud and water all the time.

This morning the whole
Company took a three hour hike and it was snowing all the time. When I got back my feet were wet and cold but each man has two pairs of shoes so I was soon comfortable for I changed into my other 'boots' as they are called here in England.

We don't get fed as well here as we did in Canada but I've got one kick coming because we are getting more than the civilian one. There are also the canteens to go to if a fellow is still hungry.
after having eaten his dinner or supper. We have three
canteens, one gout, one Church of
Eng, and one Y.M.C.A. Last night
I saw Charlie Chaplin at the
Y.M.C.A., and I found that he is
just as popular here as in the
U.S.A.

I hope that I shall hear from
you soon; it is about five
weeks since I received your
last letter. It takes a long
time for a letter to come over because the mail boat must come in convoy and it can go only so fast as the slowest ship in the convoy.

It's almost time to fall in for gunt no till clock with love.

Fred

I will put down my october again because any other letter might be topped.

# 346414 Seapen Fred Bachman

I.W. and D. R.E.

Norman Camp

Sandwich Kent

ENGL

81, 21008
Jan 19, '18

Mr. J.J. Waldman
1216 So 57th St
U.S.A.
OPENED BY CENSOR.

1852
Dear Mayce and John: — The only way that I have of realizing how far I am from home is by the length of time it takes for a letter to get there. It is quite a long time since I have heard from you, I have traveled far to get here and in spite of the distance I don't feel that I am in a strange land because the language and customs of the people here are very similar to those of the U.S.A. Of course there are many little things to remind me that I am in England, there is no great difference of any kind.

The money system is different and when I hear of "tots" and "gads" and "tripence" I always think of W.W. Jacobs books.
I quite understand the money system now, and I think I will be able to go around London without getting too out of my money.

When I collide with somebody in a dark street, I am also reminded of the fact that I am not in the States. I always walk along the right hand side of the sidewalk; an Englishman comes along in the opposite direction walking to the left, as he should, there is a collision and, after apologizing, I hear some mutterings about the d—yanks. There are quite a few fellows here from the States and the Englishmen pick us out easily by our speech.

All the towns around here are in darkness at night because of the danger of air raids. All the German planes pass over this section of the country on their way to London. They are always discovered before they get there and
they don't always get that far. I guess the Germans have made their last Z-pp, said because they say here that of the 12 Z-pps that came over last time only 3 returned. I hate pretty good work for John Bull. There have been no air raids while I have been here; perhaps there will be when I get to London.

Tomorrow is our day of rest. We only have Church Parade and then we are done for the day. I am feeling fine and I am looking forward to my leave in London. I've got about £40 or 8 "quid" as they say here so I guess I'll have a good time.

I hope you are all well and I hope that I hear from you soon. As ever,

Fred
Jan 26 '18

Mr. J.L. Waldman
1216 So. 57th St.
Phila.
Pa
U.S.A.
OPENED BY CENSOR.
Dear Maizie & John,

I received my first mail from the States yesterday; it was a box of candy from Josephine and it was as welcome as the flowers in May. It certainly was good candy. Real candy is as rare as hens teeth in this country and those chocolates from Joe certainly did taste good to me. The package was forwarded to me from the Tommies in Montreal.

I got my second inoculation Tuesday, so I was excused from duty Friday and today. Tomorrow we only have Church Parade and Monday 45 of us are going on leave. I'll have statistics on one of my other letters. I am
going to London. I am going to stop at the Eagle Inn on the Strand. That is the American Y.M.C.A. in London.

We get half of our railway fare paid and we get ration money for the time we are on leave so we are pretty well provided for.

I don't like this outfit that I am in very well and I am thinking of transferring into the infantry. I haven't decided just yet what I will do but by the time I come off leave I think I will have made up my mind.

With my trade there is little prospect of leaving England and I don't like the idea of spending my days in the army.
For God, For King & For Country

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Reply to ______________ Company ___________ Bar. ___________ Regt.
Stationed at ________________________________

Jan. 10, 1918
London, Eng.

Dear Major Gilby:- I am writing this in the Y.M.C.A. in London at 10 o'clock in the morning. We are on our way to Sandwich, Kent and we have to wait until 5 o'clock for the train so I will write a few lines and let you know that I arrived here safely and I am greatly interested in what I have seen and what I expect to see.

Our entire convoy arrived safely at these various destinations; only one submarine was seen; four states were fired at that one but I don't know whether it was hit or not. We were on the boat 24 days and I was certainly glad to get off. We had splendid weather all the way over but nevertheless I was seasick for 7 or 8 days and it certainly was an awful experience. The food we got on that boat was punk and while I was seasick I missed about 6 or 7 meals.

Out of the 45 fellows who came over about 40 were Americans before they enlisted. When we first got on the boat I thought I was the only one from the States but before the trip was over I found that almost all of them were from the U.S.
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Here in London you can get only war bread and I think it is better than the ordinary bread. I have seen women working in the railway stations doing men's work. The streets are quite dark and the few lights that are to be seen are so fixed as to throw all their light down and not up.

There are many other things to be seen which impress one with the fact that the nation is at war. It is quite different from the States.

Well I will close and write you a regular letter when I get settled in camp. With love.

Fred

My address 9 W. F. Royal Eng.
Stoneace Camp
Sandwich
Kent
Eng.
Sandwich Eng.,
Jan. 12/18, 1918

Dear Maize and John,— I have so much to write about that I nearly
know where to begin. I can not
tell you everything because much of
it would then be censored.

We were on the boat twenty-four
days and of the twenty-four I was
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entire convoy arrived safely.

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Today we received our haversacks and some further equipment including cartridge belts but I guess we won't have any occasions to use the latter.

We can hear the big guns over in Europe—there are pounding away day and night. There is an airstrike near here and airplanes are constantly flying overhead. I have seen them do some of the stunts that you read
about,loop-the-loop,riding upside-down and turning over from left to right.

I have gotten my first shot in the arm but I haven't felt any bad effects yet.

We are supposed to get 10 days leave and when do get mine I am going to London. I am also going to try and see Canterbury Cathedral. I saw it from the train window when I came here.

I have put 15/6 in a War Certificate; that is equivalent to...
$3,72 at the end of five years it will be worth a $2. ($4,80)
It is a good way to save money and I think I will put a little more money in the bank.

Food is very scarce over here but the prices here are higher. you would imagine it to be. Sugar is very scarce and it is about 25¢ a pound. Candy is also scarce. The only kind I have been able to buy is chocolate.

I hope John, that you have gotten a commission because I know now that as a private
you would be dissatisfied and I believe justly so for you have the stuff in you to make a good officer. I have seen a few since I enlisted and I know where I speak. If that one prospect has fallen flat take steps to secure a commission in some other branch of the army. I am satisfied to be in the ranks but I am sure you wouldn't be.

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Let me know about Frank and tell me some of the Philly news.
I am in good shape now and am feeling fine. I hope I get sent to France after awhile.
I don't want to stay in England all the time. I am in the service now. Well I'll write with all of love

my address

Fred,

#346414 Lapp. Fred Bachman
D Co., Stonor Camp
Hut 46 Sandwick Kent
Eng.
Dear Ma'gie & John,—

I am still in camp doing about six hours a day drilling. I will probably get my 10 days leave in a couple of weeks. I must still get another "shot in the arm" and I must also be vaccinated.

The weather is very disagreeable when it isn't raining it is snowing and the snow melts as fast as it touches the ground, so we are walking through mud & water all the time.

This morning the whole
Company took a three hour hike and it was snowing all the time. When I got back, my feet were wet and cold, but each man has two pairs of shoes so I was soon comfortable for I changed into my other ‘boots’ as they are called here in England.

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I hope that I shall hear from
you soon it is about five
weeks since I received your
last letter. It takes a long
time for a letter to come over because the mail boat must come in convoy and it can go only so fast as the slowest ship in the convoy.

It's almost time to "fall in" for great so I'll close.

With love

Fred

I'll put down my october again because my other letter might be torpedoed.

#346414 Captain Fred Backman

I.W. and D. R.E.

Shornan Camp
Sandwich, Kent

Eng.

11/21/08
Jan 19, 18

Mr. J.J. Waldman
1216 So 57th St
Phila., Pa.
U.S.A.
OPENED BY
CENSOR.
1852
Dear Mayce & John:

The only way that I have of realizing how far I am from home is by the length of time it takes for a letter to get there. It is quite a long time since I have heard from you. I have traveled far to get here and in spite of the distance I don't feel that I am in a strange land because the language and customs of the people here are very similar to those of the U.S.A. Of course there are many little things to remind me that I am in England, there is no great difference of any kind.

The money system is different and when I hear of "tots" and "guids" and "tripence" I always think of W.W. Jacobs books.
I quite understand the money system now and I think I will be able to go around London without getting 'tied out of my money.

When I collide with somebody in a dark street I am also reminded of the fact that I am not in the States. I always walk along the right-hand side of the sidewalk; an Englishman comes along in the opposite direction walking to the left, as he should; there is a collision and, after apologizing, I hear some mutterings about the d—yanks. There are quite a few fellows here from the States and the Englishmen pick us out easily by our speech.

All the towns around here are in darkness at night because of the danger of air raids. All the German planes pass over this section of the country on their way to London. They are always discovered before they get there and
they don't always get that far. I guess the
troops have made their last Z-agg raid because
they say here that of the 12 Z-ags that came
over last time only 3 returned. That's pretty
good work for John Bull. There have been no
air raids while I have been here, perhaps there
will be when I get to London.

Tomorrow is our day of rest. We only have
Church Parade and then we are done for the day.
I am feeling fine and I am looking forward to
my leave in London. I've got about $40 or 8 "quid"
as they say here so I guess I'll have a good time.

I hope you are all well and I hope that I hear
from you soon.

Yours ever,
Fred.
Jan 26 '18

Mr. J.L. Waldman
1216 So. 57th St.
Phila.
Pa
U.S.A.
Dear Maizie + John,

I received my first mail from the States yesterday; it was a box of candy from Josephine and it was as welcome as the flowers in May. It certainly was good candy. Real candy is as scarce as hens teeth in this country and those chocolates from Joe certainly did taste good to me. The package was forwarded to me from the Tamacks in Montreal.

I got my second inoculation Tuesday, so I was excused from duty Friday and today. Tomorrow we only have Church Parade and Monday 45 of us are going on leave. 16-19.

I have stated in one of my other letters.

I am
going to London. I am going to stop at the Eagle Hut on the Strand. That is the American Y.M.C.A. in London.

We get half of our railway fare paid and we get ration money for the time we are on leave so we are pretty well provided for.

I don't like this outfit that I am in very well and I am thinking of transferring into the infantry. I haven't decided just yet what I will do but by the time I come off leave I think I will have made up my mind.

With my trade there is little prospect of leaving England and I don't like the idea of spending my days in the army.
in a shipyard or munitions factory, I could have done that without enlisting. They need men for the infantry, so I guess I can get in, in spite of my eye.

I hope you are all well and I hope the problem of military service has been solved or has solved itself satisfactorily. I hope Jane is in good health. Does she still speak about me? I shall be glad when I see her again. I didn’t know how much I loved her until I left home.

Well it’s about time to hit the hay so I’ll close with love.

Sincerely.
1/29/18

Mr. J. L. Waldman
1216 50th St.
Phila., Pa.
U.S.A.
Dear John:—

London, Eng.

Jan. 29, 1918

We left Stower Camp yesterday for our 10 days leave. There were 55 of us all together and most of the fellows are staying in London.

I am making the American Y. M. C. A. my head quarters although I am sleeping at a hotel. Four of us have a room in the Athens Hotel about four squares from here.

The Eagle Hotel (Amer. Y. M. C. A.) is on the Strand right at the end.
Drury Lane and a short distance west of Charing Cross, right in the heart of London.

Last night was our first night in London and the Germans greeted us with an air raid.

The first knowledge we had of the raid was when the Germans dropped three bombs on the city. Then there were shouts of men and cries from women and children as they ran to shelters for the subway.

Within a minute of the time when the bombs were dropped, the anti-aircraft guns and Gatling guns got into action and the guns and bombs...
together made quite a racket. The Germans came right over to our place and we could hear their machines. They dropped one bomb quite close. They were over the city about an hour and then things quieted down and we went to bed. Over the noise they came back and gave us a second dose, this time they didn't stay so long but they dropped one bomb on a building at the end of our square. Our beds did some rocking when it exploded.
Last night and if the conditions are as good tonight I wouldn't be but surprised if we got another raid.

What I have seen of London I like very much. It seems like home to get into a big city again. The city is full of troops British, Canadian, Scotch, Australian, New Zealanders, and Yankees although the last-named are very few. There are also a few French soldiers and some American sailors.

Well it's time for dinner so 'tis 'knock off.' With love, Fred.
January 24, 1918

One block off London, Eng.

Dear Julie:

I am here in London on ten days leave and I am having a very good time. I have been in England about three weeks now. I have learned much, and have come across some very interesting things. I have been stationed at Stowar Camp, sandwiched in since I landed. All that we do there is drill six hours a day, but when I get back, I expect to be transferred. I think then I will be put on active service.
Last night we had an air raid. The Germans dropped quite a few bombs but the papers say nothing about the damage done or the lives lost.

One bomb dropped about a block away from our hotel. It tore down a large portion of a building and set fire to it. The fire was soon under control.

The raid lasted about four hours. As soon as the machines appeared over London a heavy fire was set up by the anti-aircraft guns and machine guns. There was quite a racket.

The weather conditions were ideal, no wind, no clouds and a very bright moon. If the same conditions
exist tonight we will, very likely, have another raid. Last night one German machine was brought down.

For the last two weeks the British have been giving the Germans a dose of their own medicine; they have conducted raids into Germany practically every night.

I am spending much of my time at the Eagle Hut where I am writing now. The Eagle Hut is the American Y.M.C.A. in London, it is
on the Strand near Drury Lane. It is just like home, here American men and American women have charge of the activities in the Hall. There are American flags hanging around and there are pictures of Wilson, Washington, Lincoln, Edison and other great Americans past and present. The spirit here is just like that in the Y.M.C.A. at home.

There aren't very many Yankee soldiers here but there are British, Dutch, Australian, Canadian, New Zealander, Belgian, French and about every other kind except German. There certainly is a great variety of uniforms to be seen here.
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

It's about time to close because I am beginning to close. Love to all.

Fred.

My address:

#346414 Jasper H. Bachman
1st W. and E. Royal Engineers
Stonear Camp
Sandwich
Kent
Eng.
1/30/18

Mr. J. L. Waldman
1216 So 57th St.
Phila,
Pa.
U.S.A.
January 30, 1918

Dear Magie and John,

We had another air raid last night but it didn't amount to much. I didn't hear any bombs go off at all but the guns fire lasted about half an hour.

I was in a music hall and at ten o'clock the manager announced that the Germans were coming. Nobody left the theater and the play went on to its proper conclusion. The London population is used to air raids and they don't let them interfere with whatever they are doing.
I went to the British Museum this morning but I found that it had been closed to visitors about two years because of the air raids. Most of the things had been taken to places of safety.

I am going to Westminster Abbey soon, that I think will be very interesting.

I saw some candy advertised for a dollar a pound. Some price! The best coffee is 60¢ a pound and in order to get sugar one must have a sugar card.

I hope you are all well.

Yours,
2/2/18

Mr. J. J. Waldman
1216 57th St.
Phila.
Pa
U.S.A.
346414 F Bachman
1W+D R. E.
Etamur Camp
Sandwich
Kent
Eng.
Dear Mayie and John:

I have been around to many of London's most noted places of interest and I have seen things of great historical interest.

I have been to the Tower of London and I have seen the room where Elizabeth, before she was queen, was imprisoned; I was in the room where the two princes were smothered to death by their uncle; I was in Lady Jane Grey's and Sir W. Raleigh's tombs. I was in many other rooms in the Tower of historical interest.
I was in Westminster Abbey and I saw among the many other things a bust of Longfellow. I was over London Bridge and Tower Bridge, I was in St. Paul's Cathedral with its famous whispering gallery. I was in the Royal Stables and the National Art Museum and today I am going to the Royal Museum and the House of Parliament.

I am enjoying every minute of my ten days. I have become acquainted with a fellow from one of our (U.S.) destroyers; he is here on a five days leave and we have been going to all these places together. He is a
third class radio operator. His home is in Providence, R.I. We did what every other soldier and sailor does as we had our pictures taken. I am enclosing two of them.

John, if you feel at all discouraged about the progress of the war or feel in doubt about the outcome put all your doubts and fears aside because we are going to win and win soon.

I have talked to fellows who have been at the front and I
I have talked to fellows whose job it is to beat the odds and from all that I have heard I find that the outlook is very bright.

One fellow was taken prisoner and he was in Germany twenty months before he escaped. He said that conditions in Germany are worse than any the allies would put up with. He also said that the Germans think that London is little more than a heap of ruins which shows how the Germans have been fed up with false reports.

Well it's about time for us to start on another trip about London so I'll close with love, Fred.
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Dear Maggie and John:

I have still four days left of my leave. My sailor friend has returned to his ship so I will be missing his company.

Yesterday at the Eagle Inn we had an address by an officer on the problem of Peace foraine. It was very interesting and he showed quite conclusively why Peace foraine should be returned to France. I am sending a couple of pamphlets on the subject and I guess you will be
interested in them.

Today the funeral of the victims of last week's air raid will take place. I suppose the towns will rub their hands in glee for they have struck a blow for the Fatherland, they killed about 60 women and children.

That bomb, that dropped so close to where I am staying, killed about 30 persons. Some was face that!

I met an American yesterday who has been in the British army since 1914. He is in a machine gun company and has been gassed and wounded several times. He was in the hospital 18 weeks suffering
From shell shock he leaves for France today.

When I get back to camp I am going to try and get into the motor boat school; if I get in I shall be very pleased because I will like that kind of work.

I hope you are all well and I hope I hear from you soon.

Yrs ever,
Fred.

1/3/18
Mr. J. Z. Waldman
1216 So. 57th St.
Phila.
Pa.
U.S.A.
2/6/18
#396414 F. Bachman
I.W.B. R.E.
Storan Camp
Sandwich
Kent
Eng.
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Feb 6, 1918

Fordon, Eng.

Dear Maggie and John:

Today is my last whole day in London; tomorrow I will have to go back to camp and as to what will happen after that I haven't the slightest idea. I am going to apply for admission into the motor boat school, if that is refused me I will volunteer for draft. If I am not drafted then I don't know what I will do. The infantry will be my last resort.

They are sending drafts of men to France, Italy and Egypt so...
wouldn't mind getting on one of the drafts. The motor boat seem'd I would like very much. You get instruction in the operation of marine engines. The course is of 14 weeks duration.

I have had a very good time here in London, every night at the flat some kind of an entertainment is arranged. Last night we had an extracting who used to be with "The Folies" we also had a lady named Fluck who used to be the violinist for Susie's band. She played the violin and she was very very good. She played that selection from than that you have and she also played
two of Kreisler's compositions. Altogether it was the best music I have heard in a long time.

On other occasions we have had some talented people come and entertain us. One lady was a Viscouness. Mrs. John Jacob Astor was out here and talked to the fellows one morning. The women are doing their bit as well as the men.

We have had dark nights
and foggy nights lately so we
have had no air raids. The
London fog is very welcome to
the people here now because it
guards them from raids.

Tomorrow I will have been
in England just one month;
the time passes very quickly.
I hope I get a letter soon; it
will seem good to hear from you.

As ever

Fred.
Feb 8, 18

J.L. Waldman
1216 S. 57th St.
Phila.
Pa.
U.S.A.
Dear Maurice and John:

I received your letter dated Dec. 1st, addressed to me at Yugo St. Barracks. It seemed like reading ancient history, but it was very welcome just the same. It was the first letter I had received since I have been in England and it came on my last day in camp.

Tomorrow about 60 of us are going to be transferred. I got back into camp yesterday afternoon and this morning my name was called out for transfer. I don't know where I am.
going to be transferred to but it will be somewhere in England. It may be to a place only a mile from here or it may be to the other side of England. We leave tomorrow morning.

In your letter you told about the poor coal you had. That certainly is too bad. Some of the fellows who have received letters from the States say that the Hudson River is frozen over; it must be very cold indeed. From what I have seen in the papers coal must be very hard to get. It is fortunate that you bought those four tons of coal.
even if it is poor coal.

The weather here is very mild; it only ever snows but it rains a good bit. Some days are just as warm and nice as a day in June.

So I thought I crossed the ocean in a rowboat? When I was seasick I thought. I was in a rowboat; the various sensations I got when I was sick are interesting to look back upon but they were very unpleasant at the time.

On Wednesday another fellow and myself were invited to tea and dinner at the home of a rather swell to do
family in the suburbs of London. We got the invitation thru the Y.M.C.A.

We arrived at their home at about 4:30; at 5 o'clock we had tea; then we retired to a small room that might go by the name of reading room. At about 6:30 we had dinner; we had roast beef and it was the first beef they had had in two weeks. It was the first they had been able to get.

After dinner we had coffee and cigars in the reading room, then we joined the ladies in the parlor or drawing room? which ever it
might be called.
They have four sons in the
army and all of them have commissions.
The visit was very interesting because
it gave me my first view of English
home life.

I hope that by this time John
has a commission. Have you heard
from Frank? I have been wondering
whether he is still in camp or
whether he has crossed the pond.

Well I'll write to you again
as soon as I get transferred.

As ever
Fred.
Mr. J.L. Waldman
1216 So 57th St.
U.S.A.
CENSOR
OPENED BY

312744 F. Backman
1W+D RE
Kitchener Camp No. 2
(M.4 M.S.) Richborough
(No. 27) Kent
Dear Maigie and John:

I have been transferred to Kitchener Camp in the Mechanical Section (M.S.) and as there is some prospect of being shortly sent overseas I am going to sit tight and not ask for any transfer of any kind to some other unit. The R.E.s. are sent to France, Italy or Mesopotamia and any one of those places would suit me fine. Some of the fellows who came over with me have been placed on a Mesopotamia draft. They have been fitted out with these big hats that the big game hunters & officers
wear, also gas masks, field dressings and that sort of thing. Of the three places where we are sent, Mesopotamia is the favorite among the men. I should like to go there myself. I guess I would be halfway around the world when I got there.

I have been wondering whether Ed is in the army yet. I wrote to him when I was in London and told him he ought to join up. I think it is only right that he should. I wish I had his chance of getting in the U.S. army.

While I was in London I called at the American army headquarters there to find out if there was
any chance of transferring to the U.S. outfit. I was told that if I could prove my American citizenship I could get my discharge here but I would still be held to the physical standard of the Americans before I would be accepted by them. Such being the case I am satisfied to stay where I am. This outfit is alright only I thought that if there was any chance of getting in the U.S. forces I would like to do it. Birds of a feather

I hope you are all O.K.

P.S. I have a new number.

312744 instead of 346914.
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1216 So 57th St
Phila,
Pa,
U.S.A.
Dear Maizie & John,

Since I have been in this camp things have been rather disagreeable. Having left Stornoway camp we are now supposed to be trained men and as we were sent to this camp to work we thought we would be put to our trades, but instead of that we were handed picks and shovels and told to go to it.

I did go to it for two days and then I put in an application for admission to the Motor Boat School.
This morning I was interviewed by the O/C (Officer commanding) the M.B.S, and I was accepted for the next class which may start in two weeks or two months, depending upon when the present class finishes.

The school will suit me fine for the work is of the kind that I like. There are marine engines of all kinds, four cycle, two cycle large and small. Seamanship must also be learned; this will include such things signaling...
stirring by the compass etc. On the whole the thing pleases me very much and I hope the next class starts soon.

I hope you are all well and I hope you have been able to get coal which I hear is very scarce. I am feeling O.K. altho' the first day or two of this heavy duty made me pretty tired and queasy.

As ever
Fred
2/19/10

Mr. J. F. Waldman
1216 57th St.,
Phila., Pa., U.S.A.
#312744 Spg. F. Bachman
1 M.S., R.E.
(W.M.S.) Kitchen Camp No. 2
Hut 27
Richborough
Kent
Eng.
Dear Maije & John:

I am still doing ordinary laboring or manuring as it is called here. I think I will get into the Niboot school in 10 or 14 days. The sooner I get there the better for me.

For three nights now the Germans have come over and attempted to raid London but their efforts have met with little success. In the three nights only one or...
two planes got into London and the damage done was insignificant. Last night they didn't even drop any bombs and the night before there were no casualties but the first night (Saturday) there were some people killed.

We are expecting them to come over again tonight because the moon is very bright and the weather is favorable for a raid.

I think myself that the Germans get cold feet when they approach London because very few of their machines
get into the city and as a general rule they turn about and beat it when the guns and R.F.C. men get after them. Many of their bombs have been dropped in open fields where they could do more damage.

Last night all the lights in the camp were put out at about eight o'clock because the Fritzies were coming and we had to make our beds and crawl in, in the dark.

I am expecting a letter from
you any day now because it is almost six weeks since I wrote my first letter.

Well I'll close

With love

Fred.
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1216 So 57th St.
Phila
Pa
U.S.A.
Dear Wayne & John,

It is still a case of "carry on" with the training. The present class at the Motor Boat School finishes its work this week so I guess it won't be very long before I get started in the school myself.

I was talking to one of the fellows in the school last night. He told me that he was going on draft leave Tuesday; when he comes off leave he will go to France. He is from Philly; Beaud and Eric.
The course at the school lasts about two months so it will be about the middle of May before I am likely to leave England. France and Mesopotamia are the two places where most of our men are sent altho Italy and Salonika are possibilities.

I still haven't received any letters from you altho I have been in England six weeks. The mail service in camp is poor the men don't seem to care whether you get your mail or not. Other fellows get letters saying that packages have been
sent to them, sometimes the packages never come at all and in most cases they are late. The same applies to letters.

The other day I saw a large gang of women working on the railroad. It was quite a sight; many of them wore breeches and putts and some big rubber boots.

Tomorrow the civil population is going to be put on rations. Meat, margarine and butter are the articles to be rationed. It seems that the statute have not come across with the promised amounts of food. But as regards grain why should they be particular?
when the English, still, after four years of war, continue to use valuable food to make hooch out of. The nation is very short of food and still the Englishman insists upon having his beer.

This morning we didn't have any church parade; we had hot inspection instead; rather a pleasant change because I never am interested in the minister who preaches to us at Sandwich where we go to church.

Well I'll close.

As ever,

Fred.
2/27/18

Mrs. J.L. Waldman
1216 S. 57th St.
Phila., Pa.
U.S.A.
Kitchener Camp
Feb. 27, 1918

Dear Maigie:-

For the last couple of days I have been hoping that I would get a birthday present in the shape of a letter from you and sure enough in the last mail today at 8:00 P.M. after being in England seven weeks I got my first letter direct from the States.

I sure was glad to get that letter because it is now about three months since I left the States and it was beginning to
It seemed like three years. It all
together it was quite a bit of mail,
letters from the States, Cuba and Peru
and oon my Birthday with me in Eu.
You certainly have been having
hard luck with the coal and the
winter so colo at that. On Christmas
day we were in the Gulf Stream
three days out from New York
and it was as warm as a day in
May. Over here we have only
had snow once since I have been
here; most of the time the weather
is just like spring weather in
the States.
I was transferred to the Motor-Boat School yesterday. It seems as though I am still destined to go to school.

Of course I am greatly pleased at the change because I will soon be learning something and once I get through the course I will probably get on some overseas draft.

I will be put on a motor boat or a motor tug as a power tender in France or West and the prospect looks good to me. It seems as though I am a lucky guy.
Don't bother about those pictures I had taken in Montreal; they probably didn't turn out good because they were taken out of doors and the weather wasn't very favorable at the time. I guess when you get this you will have received the picture I had taken in London. The hat I wear is like those of the U.S. officers, not a frock but like the Scotch. It's about time for "lights out" to how no O'clock and wish again soon with love.

Fred.
March 3, 1918

Dear Maizie and John:—I have been transferred again, this time to Haig Camp. This transfer was made

in order to put me nearer to the

MOTOR Boat School.

I have been reporting daily
daily to the school but I have only

been working around on odd jobs

because they haven't enough men
to start the new class. As soon

as enough men are obtained the

class will start.

I have been feeling rather

poorly for the last few days. I ate

some jam Thursday night that

didn't agree with me and I felt
as if I was seasick again only I didn't have the queasy feeling in the head. But last night I slept from 8:30 until 6:30 o'clock without once waking up or even turning over during the night so this morning I felt O.K. and now I have an appetite like a horse.

You said in your letter that Frank was transferred to the base hospital. What is he doing there; is he an orderly or a sicklier bearer or something like that? If you have a picture of Frank in uniform that you don't want send it to me; I would like to see what he looks like in a U.S. outfit.

I was quite interested in Julio's letter especially that part of it in which he referred to me as "the warning of the family." It amused me because I haven't had a gun in my hand since I enlisted and it isn't likely that I will...
until I get on some overseas draft and that probably won't be before the middle of May or the first of June.

I guess Ed hasn't been called up yet. I wrote him a letter when I was in London and told him to enroll. I don't know how he will take that.

John, I suppose that commission affair has fizzleed out. That's too bad but if you think that you won't be exempted when you are called up try to get a commission in some other branch of the service. I suppose Frank has told you what to expect if you go in the army as a private and if it's any thing there like it is here you
won't like it so don't leave any stone unturned in your effort to get a commission. Of course you know that any amount of money is always at your disposal to use in any way you see fit. Don't hesitate at all to use it if you want.

I am glad that Jane has had only one cold. I guess she must be getting big and strong now & can weather a few cold spells successfully.
Don't think from what I have said above that I am discontented with army. I am not sorry that I enlisted and I don't expect to be as long as the Yankees remain unbroken. I just put this down so that you wouldn't draw any wrong conclusions.

Well give my regards to the Pierges and tell them I will remember them to the King when I call on him.
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1216 So. 57th St.
Philadelphia, Pa. U.S.A.
Dear Wajie and John:

I received my second letter from you today, dated Feb. 8, on the same day I also received a letter from Julie which I read with great interest, it was five pages long and contained news about the States that I can't get in the papers. He told me how the airplane and ship building programs were progressing and about "hunks" funds submarine chassis and Rivers. "Harvey" is pianoing.

He also said that Ed was notified to appear for physical examination. I guess Ed won't mind the Army, he ought to be able to get into some regimental band and that will suit him just fine.

You asked me if I hear of "pubs" etc. Well, sandwich is exactly what you would imagine "sandwich pot" to be and in sandwich there are many "pubs". While none are named the "Red Dragon" we have the "Kings Arms", "St. George" "White Horse" and several others, the names of which I can't remember. "Rail" and "surf" is a favorite drink the price being four pence a bottle, I can't say as to the quality of it, however, never having sampled any.

I was interested in the announcement in the church calendar. I am glad that the cold weather has gone. Over here we already have some kind of fade singing as if summer were upon us.
In your last letter you said that John was going

to write, his letter seems to have gone astray, possibly
to Davy Jones' locker but I hope not.

I don't quite get your dope about the box you were
gong to send, just asked if there was anything I
wants? I believe I didn't need anything but I would
like to get the chance to again see what good candy
taste like. Other fellows you know have their
cigarettes and books, so I rather felt that it wasn't
unpatriotic to take one or the world's tonnage space
with a box of candy.

I have been wondering if you ever got the black
bag, I rent it from Montreal by the American Express. I
have forgotten to mention it in my other letters. My
overcoat, pajamas and a few other things were in it. Let
me know if you got it.

I have also been wondering what to do about college.
It isn't at all possible that I'll get there this year but
I would still like them at State to keep a record of the fact
that my notions were approved and that I had been accepted.

I hope you are all well. I am feeling O.K. but I
am rather impatient to get away to France or somewhere.

Well I'll close.

Sincerely,

Fred.
Mrs. J.F. Walchman  
1216 South 57th St.  
Philadelphia  
Pa.  
U.S.A.
Haig Camp
Friday March 15, 1918

Dear Magie:— I received your letter and also one from Ed but as yet I haven't gotten any from John. I suppose he has written because you mentioned "our letters" just as the 1st you and John had written. Very likely it has been nicked ahead somewhere—along with the candy perhaps, for I haven't received that either. I am very glad you sent some and I hope it gets here soon.

My clothes are holding out alright. Worn out clothing can always be replaced at the Quartermaster's Store so I am alright on that score. I use my comfort kit all the time and I find it very handy indeed. Some of those knitting machines I saw some of them being used once in the movies.

It is certainly too bad the commissary prospect fell flat, but the army has many branches and there ought to be some other p'chance. What does Class A 4 mean? I suppose the A stands for physical fitness. It might interest you to know that I too am in Class A, which over here means that I am fit for general service—infantry, artillery etc. You see there is quite some difference between class A here and class A over there. Of course I wouldn't be transferred to some other branch of the service without an examination and then I guess I would be put in a lower category.
I hope that by now Jane is well. She has done fine to go so long with only one sickness. I received a letter from Josephine and she said Jane was growing quite large and has changed quite a bit since I left. If you should happen to have a picture of her, taken since I left, it would be very glad if you would send me one.

The weather is beginning to get warm over here. For the last couple of weeks the sky-larks have been putting in an appearance in increasing numbers. These birds sing while they are flying in the air, something we don't have in the States.

Well I'll close, hoping the candy arrives safely and soon.

As ever,


def
3/18/18

Mrs. J.L. Walchman
1216 South 57th St.
U.S.A.
Dear Maigie:

I received another letter from you today and I was glad to get it. It was the first letter I had gotten in over a week. Your last letter was dated Feb 21 and this letter today was dated Feb 14, so you see I have been getting them out of order.

I also got a letter from Emma, which was one of her usual newsy kind and I was very pleased to get it. She said that she expected Gordon would have to go in the next draft. She also said that they have been giving farewell parties to the fellows who were being called up. Frank Munsie is in France, she said, and Henry Caquin. Clayton Montrose and John Beeman were some of the fellows from the Beach who have enlisted.

Valentine Day must have been quite an event for Jane; what with post cards and a party. I didn't even know it was Valentine Day on the 14th of Feb. It isn't observed over here. Jane must be getting to be some girl if she can rey all those
rhythms. I am glad she still talks about me I had thought she might forget all about me. Since June can't "sing a song of suspense" I'll enclose one in this letter for her. It will be a sort of souvenir. I can imagine the kind of a time you must have had at the Stanley with June. I guess she hit everybody in the theater know that something was wrong.

I started to get hungry when I imagined what your dinner at Thonnes must have been like. I haven't had a meal over here that you could call a real dinner. Our army ration packs as follows:

- Bread 14 oz
- Bacon 2 oz
- Meat 10 oz
- Sugar 1½ oz
- Salt 1½ oz
- Tea 3 oz, but at that I am putting on weight and getting a real healthy color in my cheeks.

I haven't gotten the candy yet nor have I received any letter from John. It's too bad Lange lost his job but at that it may be a blessing in disguise for he wanted to quit but always hesitated about taking the final step.
you said I didn't have much to say about my work. That's because I haven't been doing anything worth talking about; this is the army and "soldiering" is carried on to such a degree that it can almost be called an art. The "stalking", around here is awful; I shall be glad when I finish the course and get overseas.

Well I'll close

With love to all

Floyd

P.S. yesterday was St. Patrick's Day. I am enclosing some real shamrock from Ireland.
3/20/18

Mrs. J.L. Waldman
1216 South 57th St.
U.S.A.
312744 F. Bouchier

(154, W.B. R.E.)
Haig Camp
Richo
Kent
Eng.
Dear Maigie:

I received your letter dated March 31st
and of course I was very glad to get it. I believe that
you must have written a letter before this one, which
I havn't as yet received because you mention Mr.
Yambl's gift as tho' you had written at some previous
time about it. I havn't gotten either that or the candy
but there is still hope because it seems to take
longer for packages to come than for just letters, at
least that has been the experience of other Canadien.

Every thing is going along as usual, nothing
much happens except an air raid once or awhile, then
they tell me the guns around here round away at a
great rate but altho' we have had five or six raids I
have always been a bed and asleep except once when I
woke up for about ten seconds and heard the German
machines going past, then thinking it was the British
practising night flying, I turned over and promptly
went to sleep again.

If you ever get war-wear just think of what
the people have to put up with over here and this
"carry on". Theaters must close at 10:30 P.M., restaurants
at 9:30, no food without a ration card, only war bread
and war cake, sugar card, meat card, butter card, possibility of

Thursday March 21, 1918
rations, gas and electricity it's a case of S.O.S. (save a stone) and on top of that, their is always the likelihood of an air raid to demolish your home and kill your loved ones.

It isn't likely that you will even have air raids to contend with so near as many restrictions placed upon you as the people here have placed upon them so there is much to be thankful for. From what I have heard from time to time France is worse off than England.

I wouldn't attempt to say what Germany is like.

I am glad to hear that Jane is having such good times. She certainly is doing society. Well, well.

With love to all.

Fred.
Hoig Camp  
Tuesday March 26, 1918

Dear Maizie:

Just a line before I turn in, to let you know that I received the candy tonight and that it is OK. It certainly is a treat; even the covers with "Hanscom's Philadelphia" on them looked mighty good to me. Last night I was able to get some candy at a "bargain" price, which comes to about $1.00 U.S. money, and at that it was only about 3rd rate candy.

The Testament is also very nice. Was it a present from Mr. Gamble or from the U.P. Sunday School? I shall write to Mr. Gamble after I have written to mother and Almena. I got letters from both of them.

The other letter I am enclosing wasn't back to me by the censors because I put that sign near
in it. KG bring one back with me when I come home.

Some battle over there yet! At the time I am writing the fight is six days old and the British line still holds and I hope when you get this the British line will be somewhere along the Rhine. We can hear the guns going day and night. I can at least say that I heard the battle even if I don’t get to see some of it.

Well I’ll close with love to you all.

Fred.

P.S. A notice on our company bulletin board stated that

Americans in British Forces should have their parcels sent 1/20

The American Red Cross Care Committee

154 New Bond St
London W.1.

This gets them their free of duty. There was no duty on the candy.
Haig Camp
Thursday March 28, 1918

Dear Maizie & John:

Well, I guess I will soon be leaving England. The big push "out-jordon" has created a sudden imperative need for motor drivers with the result that ten of us were picked out at the school today by the lieutenant in charge and handed over to a sergeant with instructions to get us ready for service in a week. This means that instead of taking the regular two months course we are being pushed through the school in a week. This pleases me greatly because I will now have a chance to really do something. We are going to be put on tugs on the canal in Belgium and France.

There are two engineers to a tug, the sleeping quarters are good and there is plenty of engine room space. Most of these tugs are installed with sixty horse-power Kelvin engines. I suppose our job will be to carry ammunition and supplies up to the front. Not bad at all eh? If everything goes right I will probably be in France when you get this letter. By Apr. 5th I will be finished at the school, by the 6th I ought to be on my
draft leave and I ought to cross over any time after that leave is over. A draft leave is generally six days. I think I will go to Yorkshire, Glasgow or some other town up north.

I received a letter from Buckwalter's of Spring City; they are sending me some candy and "cats." I hope I get them before I leave. That's very nice if they aren't it! Their daughter Ruth often asks if Mr. Fred is over fighting the Germans. She doesn't like 50-50 flour and when she objects her mother tells her that she must eat it and save the wheat for Mr. Fred so that he can fight the Germans.

Well I guess that about all, I hope you are all well.

With love to all,

"Sapper"