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[http://archives.ubalt.edu](http://archives.ubalt.edu)
Somewhere in France, July 5th.
Just landed, arrived here from England after a 6 hour trip. Am having a good time what with constant change of scenery, companions, from the four corners of the earth and a bit of roughing it. Great experience! Love to all.
Fred.
Mr. J.L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.

Drianc Beach
U.S.A.
July 8, 1918

Dear John:—

I am once again in a cut camp in France; we have been traveling ever since we left the last camp 48 hours ago. We leave again tomorrow morning and I think we will soon be out of France.

We are traveling in style, in a cattle car; on the side of each car is painted, however 36-40 hours or 8 or in other words we are informed by the signs that the car will hold from 36 to 40 men or 8 hours. The weather is glorious, so we are enjoying the trip immensely. The worst part is sleeping on the floor.
The fruit we get here in France is very much better than what we get in England. We have absolutely no kick coming on that.

I hope Maggie has received that box of fruit I sent. Let me know whether it arrives or not.

Well we have to pull in again in a few minutes so I'll close. While we are in rest camps we are not always resting, there is much to be done.

Yours sincerely,
Fred.
floor at night without blankets for it gets quite cold at night and the top side of a plank at the seat is quite hard but I got 7 hours good sleep last night so you see I am getting used to little inconveniences like that.

The train stops three times a day so that we can get our grub from the ration car and it stops about 30 more times for some reason unknown to us. During the stops we get out and chew the fat with the French girls for they are very sociable about as sociable as they can be considering that neither the fellows nor the girls know much of each other's language.
The gran we get here in France is very much better than what we got in England. We have absolutely no kick coming on that.

I hope Maggie has received that box I sent; let me know whether it arrives or not.

Well we have to fall in again in a few minutes so I'll close. While we are in rest camps we are not always resting; there is much to be done.

Love to all

As ever

Fred.
Mr. J.L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
U.S.A.

P.C. Day
Ocean Beach Camp, Hula.

"10" W. O. D. Evans
"10" W. O. D. Evans
U.S.A.

7/10/18
Dear John:

Just a line to let you know that we are in another rest camp and feel as fit as a jiddle after having shored, bathed, washed our clothing, and stored away a man's size breakfast.

The weather here is all that it is cracked up to be: sunshine, cool breeze, blue sky, etc., etc. It is somewhat warmer here than in England and France but apart from that there isn't a great deal of difference between this part of the world and the other parts that I have seen.

We have passed thru extensive farm lands and I find that they raise practically the same crops here as they do in the eastern part of the States—wheat, oats, corn, alfalfa etc.

We arrived here at 8 a.m. and we are going to leave at 7 P.M. tonight so there is much to be
done in the short time we have here.
I hope you are all well and are enjoying your
vacation for no doubt you are "on leave" now. Well
I'll close, love to all.
Fred.
Aug 12' 18

Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd Street
Philadelphia
Pa.
U.S.A.
Dear John:

At last we have arrived in Mesopotamia, the land of the pomegranate, where Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together. The most pronounced thing about this place is the heat.

Yesterday was a rather cool day, so the old hands told us, it was only 107° in the shade. We missed the worst of the heat for last month it was 120 and 130°.

Tell Frank if he wants to find out what real heat is, he wants to come out here. Little Rock has nothing on here.

We wear knee-length tunics, no ties, slippers, hat, and a neck scarf. We are issued with smoked glasses, the wearing of which is optional.

The sides of our huts are made of mud and asbestos, the top is made of corrugated iron covered with mud. We have three electric fans in the hut which circulates the thin, hot air.
weren't for the fans I don't know what we would do.

I don't know whether we will stay here or whether we will go further up the river to put a Bagdad on instance. I should like to get up somewhere near the line. I will never consider myself a soldier until I have been under fire.

We were down to headquarters this morning and we are being inoculated again this afternoon so I think we will soon be getting to work. Our jobs as motor boat drivers are calculated to be among best out here.

We have only been here two days so of course I haven't gotten any mail but if my letters were forwarded from England alright I should be getting some mail in two or three weeks.

The news from France seems to be very good. I have often been wondering whether Ed is in France yet. I
am quite anxious to know how he is making out.

I am figuring it out that this letter will reach the States about October so I will extend my birthday greetings to both Magie and Jane in this letter. I have been wondering how you spent the summer; I hope the war didn't upset your vacation too much.

This letter isn't inclusive to letter writing so I'll close. I'll put my address below please send it to Ed and tell him to write.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

As ever,

Fred

# 312744 Sapper J. Buchman

Inland Water Transport

British Mesopotamian

Expeditionary Force
Dear Frank:

I haven’t been here very long but I find that the East of romance and the East of reality are two widely different things. Poets have written of the oriental, magnetic, mystic East with its bewitching dark ey'd beauties etc., etc., but I am sure that those poets were never within a couple of thousand miles of even Egypt where you begin to see, hear and smell the real East.

The people here are, for the most part very dirty and the women wear rings thru their noses, have dabs of green paint on their faces and wear brass and silver anklets. beggars are in abundance, they sit in the dust and dirt on both sides of the street and jolly away in Arabic seeking alms. Boys sell water in the streets from earthen jugs and the adult water-comics use goat skins for the same purpose. It is possible to see the East in moving pictures.
but you never can hear or smell it until you come out here. The noise in the bazaars of the merchants and possible customers wrangling over the prices of goods, mixed with the cries of children and the braying of overladen asses is certainly not musical. The nasal senses are also affected but I shall not attempt to describe that; try and imagine it.

Occasionally a very picturesque procession of eight or ten camels passes thru the town. These ships of the desert are piled high with cargo and they occupy the greater part of the street when they are passing thru.
main facts so we are satisfied. Now that I am in Meo I wish I were in France for big things are happening there and I should certainly like to have a hand in it even tho my part might be small and unimportant.

I haven't heard from the folks since about the first of July so I don't know how things are going with you a John or Ed; you see the letters I received in England just before I left were mailed in the States during the latter part of April or the first of May.

I think I ought to get some mail within a couple of weeks.

I have been put in charge of a small tug boat which, when I was posted to it, was undergoing repairs to the engine; the repairs have been completed but aside from making a trial run and starting the engine a couple of times to keep up pressure in the air tanks I haven't done anything, for there doesn't seem to be any work here at this particular place, requiring the use of this boat.
The weather here is quite nice now; the temperature only goes up to 102 and 104 degrees whereas it was 113 when we first came. We missed the worst of the heat which is felt in June and July when the thermometer registers 120 and 130 degrees.

I suppose your present job is more to your liking than your old one of private in an infantry regiment. Today's paper told of the Manpower Bill being passed by Congress. That will bring 'Uncle' and 'Jill' as candidates for a seat of 'Kahki.' I suppose that by this time the people are beginning to realize that there is a war on.

Well Frank, I've about reached the end of my rope as regards news so I'll close. You will find enclosed a picture taken not very far from here, which will give you an idea of what Miss X looks like. Best of luck to you.

Frank

P.S. My address - Fred

#312744 Sapper F. Bachman

Inland Water Transport

British Meso pesthian & Co. Force
Mesopotamia
Sept. 5, 1918

Dear John:

There is nothing particular to write about; I am in good health, am doing a bit of engine work to pass the time and considering everything am as satisfied as it is possible to be in the British Army.

I have enclosed a letter to Frank which I wish you would forward to him. If you read that you will get about all the news it is possible for me to get into one letter; I don’t suppose Frank would care if you read the letter.

I am enclosing a couple of pictures taken out here; you may keep one if you like. I hope you are all well and feel fit after your summer. I don’t know yet how or where you spent it but I hope you enjoyed a change!

Well John I’ll close this note and try and write you a real letter soon when I have something more to write about for it is possible that I will get in on one of the
latest "shunts" after which perhaps I will be able to call myself a soldier.
For to all
Fred

My address.

No. Rank Name
Inland Water Transport
British Mesopotamian Ex. Force.
Sept 15, 18
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa.
U. S. A.
Dear Ed:

I received your letter yesterday, of June 26th, and I was very glad indeed to hear from you. Your letter and one from John which I received at the same time, was the first mail I had received from the States since I came to Mesopotamia. I had previously gotten two letters from Glasgow. Mail out here are rather few and far between so you can depend upon it a letter is very welcome.

Your experiences in trying to form a band made interesting reading. I am glad that you have gotten into the Headquarters Band for that, I doubt in a good one. Our Depot Band in Blighty was very good; if you have to work as hard as they have, I am afraid you will be kept very busy for they were playing from morning till night but they sounded best when on July 4th they marched our draft down to the station. A few days later in France as we were leaving a rest camp a Battalion of Yanks marched in with their band playing and their extras flying and
Whitneyuntil may arrive.

I believe hope your soon. Please note.

Mar and uns with will of what will.

Son miss sooner it to arrange by Wednesday

will and it most occurred near. Please hurry all.

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have yourself as this interest have principally been
believe me, those Yanks with "Old Glory" flying at their head looked good to me.

We received news tonight of General Allenby's success in Palestine. He is supposed to have captured 25,000 Turks, 200 guns and all their transport west of the Jordan. I certainly hope that sort of thing continues for if the Turks chuck up the sponge there is a chance of getting back to France and to a white mans climate.

Recently the temperature has been ranging around 110 degrees but I think we ought soon to have it cooler. When it does get cooler military operations will doubtless commence and I hope that Allenby's successes will be duplicated in Mesopotamia.

I hope you will send me your photo when you get it taken for I am quite keen to see what you look like in the uniform that always looks best to me. That picture you sent me of the folks at the Beach was very good. I am glad you sent me one for a picture like that is very welcome when you are on the other side of the world to where you ought to be.
Those "shots" in the arm didn't affect me very much. The first one was the worst but the other two hardly stiffened my arm. I got two "shots" for, I think, yellow fever and the third I know was for cholera. Such diseases as malaria, smallpox and cholera are rather common, out here.

I am glad you gave me Bill Bosnin's address; I shall endeavor to write to him soon. Before I left England I received these two papers you sent me and I was very glad to get them for Yankee newspapers are scarce and they contain news that you don't find in English papers.

Well, it's almost time for "lights out" here so I'll close. Write when ever you get the chance for I am always glad to hear how you are getting along in the army.

Best of luck to you.

Yours ever,

[Signature]

My address:
No. Rank Name
Inland Water Transport Rgt. Engs.
British Mesopotamia Ex. Force.
Dear John:

I received two letters from you a short time ago but in the reverse order time to which they were sent, but never the less I was very glad to hear from you. They were the first letters I had gotten since July 3rd. I have also received a letter from Mr. Capron, a receipt from the jeweler in Edinburg from whom I bought that R.E. pin for Maggie and three letters from a girl in Glasgow; all this within the last week. I hope, by the way, that that R.E. broach which I sent to Maggie from Blight in July 2nd has arrived safely. I also sent a small book entitled "Rough Rhymes of a Padre." I want your criticism of it; personally I thought it in many cases true to life and subsequent experiences have strengthened that belief.

I notice that next Wednesday is Jane's birthday. It is hard to realize that she is four years old and that before I get back to the States she might actually be going to school. I hope she is well. I remember if you get
a photo of her to sent me one for I am quite anxious to see the changes which have taken place since I left home almost a year ago.

I suppose you would be interested to know when I expect to get home again. Well I don't think the war will end until about mid-August and I think it will take six months after peace has been declared before I get home so that it will be the early part of 1920 before I see the States again. Of course it is possible that I will get home sooner but I don't expect to get there at any date earlier than that mentioned above.

I was surprised at C'merge complaint about not having enough solos to sing; it seems like a petty and insignificant thing to do especially when he owns what little voice he has got to you. He seems subject to rapid changes of heart since he came back so soon and apologized and now that everything is alright and good feeling has been restored he's hope it will remain that way.
With regard to those socks, let the matter drop for it is about hopeless trying to send anything to me. I sometimes get into moods when I am thoroughly disgusted with some of the rules and regulations connected with military affairs even tho' you may argue in favor of them with such fine words and phrase as "patriotism", "sacrifice", "good of the cause" etc.

The above may reveal to you my state of mind at times but more along this line I cannot write; when the war is over I will have a few interesting tales to tell you.

I suppose that when you get this letter Gen. Allenby's brilliant operations in Palestine will be history but it will be mighty fine history nevertheless. There is a possibility that his successes will bring to a close the operations in Asia Minor, I certainly hope it does for then it would be quite likely that we would go to France and I am quite keen about going there.

France at least has a white man climate that I know of I was there but
as for this miserable pit on the face of the earth, called Mesopotamia, there is nothing to be said in favour of it.

I am still working in the motor dockyard and I like the work, what there is of it, the trouble is that there isn't much of it. Work is quite slack.

It seems strange to be answering now, almost in October, a letter written in June. The summer is over and you are no doubt back at school again; still in your letter you stated that you hadn't made up your mind what to do "this summer". And to carry it still further I suppose that when you receive this letter you will almost be starting the second term of the school year.

The news from France is certainly fine. I am glad to see that the Yanks are doing their bit on the Western front, with a vengeance.

The "mot in uniform" will show the insimil troop of the Fatherland a trick or two they never saw before.

I am mildly curious to know how
eventhough Bell is getting along. I'll bet he is a man now, that is if the army hasn't killed him. If you have any news of any of the fellows who I know that joined up, let's have it.

The weather is cooling down considerably. The temperature is roughly around 102 in the shade now. Of course there hasn't been any rain here for months so that the dust is terrible, when we do get rain it will mean mud, mud and more mud.

Well John I'll bring this to a halt. Give my love to all the folks.

As ever

Fred

No. Rank Name
Inland Water Transport, R.E.
British Mtro. E. Force.
Mr. J.L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa.
U.S.A.

Oct 16 '18
Nov 1, 1918
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa
U.S.A.
Dear John:

Well John it looks as tho it were all over but the shouting out in this part of the woods. The Turks absolutely beaten to a frazzle in Palestine and Mesopotamia now accepting an armistice which is practically the same as a complete surrender. We have only gotten the scant outline of the news, by wireless, but it looks like the real goods alright. I hope that when you get this letter I will have left this God forsaken place. Perhaps my ambition will get be realized, shot of getting to France and doing something to help beat the Hun.

I received your letter from the Beach and also Majer's and was very glad to hear from both of you. I haven't heard from Ed since he wrote and said he was expecting to get sergeant stripes. I hope he has them.
by this time,
It is getting much cooler here now in fact at night it gets quite cold about 5.5 degrees. The change in temperature seems to bring with it a larger number of cases of smallpox, malaria etc. Three huts in camp have been isolated because of smallpox and all the fellows are being vaccinated and inoculated.

I am still at the dockyard and am still interested in the work. I am certainly learning a lot, the army surely isn't doing me any harm for my knowledge of motors has increased a very great deal indeed.

Well I can't find very much to write about so I'll close.

Love to all

Fred.
This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

Note:—
Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be used by the writer:

I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing vital and family matters.

I.Bachman

Dec 15, 18

Address:

Mr. J.E. Wu

1247 South

Philadelphia
Dec. 15, 1918

Mesopotamia

Dear John:

I received a couple of letters from you and one from Major a short time ago and I was very glad to hear from both of you. Changes have certainly taken place in your work. I am not surprised that you didn't like West Philly for I didn't like it myself when I first went there and I am sure old Hyle and his methods aren't to your liking by any means but if you get with Big John at the Junior High you ought to find things better there for Mahoney is alright.

I suppose Jane is quite a big girl now; I am sure I won't know her when I get back for she will be almost five years old then.

How and where is Ed? I only received one letter from you when you were at the Beach and in that and the other two mentioned above nothing was said about Ed
so I don't know whether he got overseas or not. The last letter I got from him was dated in June when he was expecting to get sergeant stripes. I am working at the Water Dockyard and I find the work very interesting. The officer in charge of the gang I am in, is a young fellow and a decent sort of chap which goes a long way towards making life pleasant. I have got one white man and two Indians as my helpers so I am well away.

The weather here has been fine the last couple of months, very little rain and no extreme of temperature. It is a good thing that it doesn't rain often for when it does rain the mud is terrible, you simply get covered with it from head to foot. In some places it is ankle deep, it is no use trying to pick out dry places because there aren't any, you simply have to become resigned and wade right.
through it.
I don't know when we will leave this country, but I don't think it will be before February or March. I should certainly like to come home via Paris and of course that is only a remote possibility.

Well I'll close, hoping to hear from you soon. Love to all.

Fred
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.,
U.S.A.

Jan 4, 1919

Snr. T. Backman
Dear John:

The censorship has been lifted so I suppose I can be frank in my letters than hitherto. I have started in as you see by placing at the letter head the particular town that I am in.

I received your letter which you addressed to me in India and in which you stated that Frank had volunteered for overseas service. I suppose he volunteered too late for the war ended only about a month later than the date on your letter. Ed has certainly done well in the short time he has been in the army but he has missed much by not getting overseas.
I suppose you would be interested to know a little more about my trip out here so here it is: I left Sandwich July 4th and embarked at Southampton the same day. A regiment of Americans from the middle west crossed on the same boat. We disembarked at Cherbourg the next morning and marched four miles to a rest camp where we stayed until the next morning. On July 6th we touched our cattle cars for an eight day journey. During these eight days we stopped one night in a rest camp at St. Germain and one day at Fienza, Italy. We passed thru the following places in France and Italy, Cherbourg, Bayeux, Caen, Meijen, Chateau de Jion, St. Pierre Ville Franche, Bourges, Mulena, Viergo.
Puy Le Montal, St. Germain, Lyons, Aix Le Bains (the American "Blight")
St. Jean de Ma, Turin, Asti, Fierza,
Castilmarce, Fogjier, and Trieste.

We passed numerous American camps in France and at Moulins we
saw two car loads of the first big
tag of prisoners that the Americans
made. They were a sorry looking lot.
Some of the cartoons you see of Italian
prisoners are certainly not an exaggeration.
Aix Le Bains in southern France is
a beautiful place: I saw it called in a
British paper, the American "Blight" for
that is a Yankee rest camp there.
We also saw the American aviation
park at Fogjier.

We embarked at Trieste on the
14th of July and put to sea on the same day. On the way out of the harbor we passed the Italian battle ship that was blown up by Austrian spies in 1915. The ship was completely upside down and on one side was a huge the bulge where the explosion had taken place.

The trip lasted three days; we had fine weather and not until the very end of the trip did I begin to feel seasick, thus the sight of land and the fact that we were soon in the harbor saved the situation. The second day out we passed almost directly over the place where a French transport and two British tramps had been sunk; for we passed right over a
field of several hundred cask helmet floating about, also a water cask and a few pieces of wreckage.

From Alexandria we went to Port Said by sail where we immediately anchored and put to sea.

The Red Sea I will dismiss by simply saying it is a hot place. I used to get into my hammock at night with absolutely nothing on, than my wrist watch and wake up in the morning with the sweat pouring out all over me. You can imagine what it was like at midday, the heat from the desert was terrific.

We put in at Aden for about twelve hours then put to sea again and from that time on I was seasick until
we reached Bombay. As for Bombay I told you what it was like in my letter from there.

We arrived in Bombay on the 29th July and left on the 4th August.

Of course I was seasick again until we got into the Persian Gulf where we encountered the extreme heat again once more. The journey ended when we disembarked here on the 17th August.

And now the question in everyproductive mind is: "When do we go from here boys?" It is quite certain that Canadians in the R.M. will be among the first to go but just when that will take place I don't know. It seems quite a sure thing.
that we will go next month but of course nothing official has been given out. The rumors about us going via Japan and the Pacific still persist; I hope they come true.

Well I'll close hoping that by the time you receive this letter I will have made a start from here. I'll have to get the flags ready because I will be coming soon.

Love to all

Fred
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa.
U.S.A.
Dear John:

I received your letter yesterday, dated November 28th, Thanksgiving day. That day of course isn't celebrated by the British so of the day passed quietly. All during the day I kept thinking of the turkey and cranberries that would be consumed in the States while we poor fighters in Mesopotamia had tully lef and biscuit twice for dinner and supper.

I don't know when we will leave this dump but I do know that they don't seem to be hurrying themselves any in their efforts to get us demobilized. Of course being a transportation corps we would be
among the last to leave the country but considering that the war ended almost three months ago and the Royal Indian Marine will eventually take over the work of the I.W.T. little has been done towards getting us home.

Before the war was over we were given a lecture on demobilisation and of course the question came up 'what is the duration of war for most of us had signed on for the duration and six months thereafter if required. We were told that a committee was being formed in Parliament to try and define the duration.' Well as I have said the war has been over almost three
months and we still haven't been told what the decision of the committee was and if you ask me we probably never will be told unless we will be returned when they get it good and ready to return us. If this committee should decide that the duration won't up until peace was signed then I don't know when I will get home.

If ever a man existed who was more disgusted with his life I should like to know of him. It isn't the work that I complain of that is alright but it is the system and this British army "discipline." If I were to tell you all about it now I would be writing
for a week for there is much to
still but you shall have it all
when I get home. I haven't been
able to write like this in my
other letters because the censorship
has been removed only recently
and a fellow has to be careful or
you shall learn when I get home.

There are only two things
which compensate for this inborn
army life and the association with
the new lot of folks that are to
be found in this corps and they
are the free trip half way around
the world and the knowledge of motor
which I have been able to acquire.

There may be other compensations
but these are the two outstanding
ones.
I am enclosing a couple of pictures of yours truly. They were taken in December so of course I am clad in ordinary khaki without the helmet, spine pad and sun shade. For the temperature now varies from 40 to 60 degrees F, which is cool when you think of the 113° in the shade that we had last August.

Well John I'll bring this to a halt. With love to all.

As ever

Fred
Feb 21, 1919

Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa.
U.S.A.

Sgt. F. Waldman
Dear John:

I received your letter of Dec. 18th and was very glad indeed to hear from you. I am still "carrying on" as usual waiting for the word to clear out.

At the present time the prospects of going home are a little better than they have been for some weeks. The first men to be sent home were the men over 40 years of age and at the present time practically all of them have gone. They have also sent home men who were badly needed in industries like mining, railways, etc. At about the same time the men physically
unfit for the country were sent. There are about 90 thousand white troops out here of whom 50 thousand are to be gotten out of the country before the hot weather sets in, which generally takes place in April.

According to latest orders the army of occupation will consist of men who joined after June 1, 1916, when conscription was enforced, men under the age of 37; so the men who will be included in the 50 thousand to go home will be the men who joined in 1914-15, men who are over 37 years, regulars whose time expired, men who have been wounded three or more times and men who joined overseas Canada, U.S.

I come in the last lot and at the
present time I expect to leave the country before the end of March. I still don't know whether we will go east or whether we will go west to Egypt and then direct to Canada or whether we will go to Blighty and from there across the burning ground.

As to my plans when I get home again. I don't think I shall ever go to school again because my eyes feel sure, would not stand the strain of that kind of work. The terrific glare of the sun out here has done my eyes no good and that is one of the reasons I want to get out of this country as soon as possible.

There is one thing in which another American chap and myself are quite
keenly interested and that is the offer by the Canadian government of
160 acres of land and financial assistance. Of course the two facts about
which we must become certain are, is the offer open to us and if so to
what extent will the government help us.

It is a proposition which undoubtedly
needs the energy of youth combined with
the sound reasoning and judgment of
experience; we possess the former but I am
afraid not the latter.

I received a letter from Ed in
which he enclosed a photo of himself
taken at DIX. He certainly looks well
and the letter certainly becomes him.

Well I'll close.

Love to all

Fred
Mr. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa.
U. S. A.

3/24/19

Archive Service
Basrah, Mesopotamia
March 27, 1919

Dear John:

At last I have got some pretty good dope about coming home. We were told by the C.O. of the dockyard that we would all be going from this country about the first of May and some would be going sooner.

There isn't hardly a chance now that we will go east to the west coast for as far as we know we are going to a camp in Winchester. We will probably turn in our rifles and equipment there and then wait until shipping is available to take us to Montreal. Judging from the way the wind is blowing at present I should say that
I might be home roughly about the first of August.

I received a letter from Ed in which was enclosed a letter to him from Jake. Both letters were interesting to me about what he intended doing when he got out of the army and Jake's letter dealt with the garage stunt. It certainly will be a paying business if once fairly started and Jake should succeed since he has Hartson in lack of him.

As for my own plans when I get out of the army I can only say that I don't think I shall go to college because I feel more my eyes couldn't stand it. The first thing I shall do when I get back
to Philly is to see Dr. Fox. His report upon my eyes will largely decide my future.

I am going to inquire into the Canadian land offer of 160 acres which also include the loan of money and a free three months course at an agricultural college. The details we get out here about the offer are vague and uncertain so I will have to wait until I take flight to Blythe or Canada before I can get any authentic information.

Everything is going on rather in the same slow way especially demobilization; up to the present time only about 40,000 troops have left here. The weather is getting
pretty list. One of the fellows I came out with almost had a heat stroke in February; he was sick for two or a couple of days. We are in full summer attire except for the helmet shades and spine packs.

I wish I were home to discuss international politics with you, esp. the League of Nations, which I don't think will ever become an effective body. The fine spoken words of the Allies when the issue of the war was in doubt aren't the words that we hear now. At the present time we hear phrases like hang the Kaiser, bleed Germany, to the last penny, crush and humiliate her. Is that the way to the "just and honorable peace" that we heard so much
in 1916 and 17. You, John, may have had a different time playing in the States, but the news I get in European news, and it comes from European papers.

Well, John, I'll close. Hoping you are all in the best of health.

With love to all,

Fred
Mrs. J. L. Waldman
1247 South 53rd St.
Philadelphia
Pa.
U. S. O.
Dear Magie:

I received your letter yesterday of Feb. 4th in which you enclosed a photo of Jane and I must say I was mighty pleased with that photo. I had been wondering from time to time just how great a change I would see in Jane when I returned so yesterday when I opened your letter that snapshot of Jane was a delightful surprise. She certainly has developed into a much older girl than she was when I left and she is also pretty. When I showed the photo to one of the fellows here who is a Canadian he remarked, "They certainly know how to dress"
"the kids at home, don't they," which speaks well for your task.

I haven't received the word yet to stand by for demobilization, but I'm expecting it at any time. Of the ten overseas men in the motto dockyard only three of us are left; the other seven have been sent to the demobilization embarkation camp up the river a few miles.

The temperature has been going higher a few degrees each day; the highest so far being 105.1 degrees F. I leave you to imagine what it is going to be like in July and August.

The increased temperature seems to have brought with it an outbreak
of diseases, especially tropical plague, which has broken out among the natives especially in the lazars. As far as I know no white troops have contracted the disease, this being due probably to the plague inoculation and the persistent fight against rats conducted by the sanitary section of the R.A.M.C.

When I write again I hope that I will be able to say that I have got one foot on the ladder and am standing by for demobilization. I am looking forward keenly to the day that I found that ship that found for Blighty even if I must be seasick before I get there as will probably be the case.
Well I'll close. Hoping you are all well and that I will be able to join you before your summer vacation is over,

With love to all,

Fred.
In reply please quote Debt Reg:No: 60 Sec CII
To Regt No: 31244 Rank: Srg Name: Becker
Regiment: 1 W T P E

Sir, I regret to inform you that there is a debtor balance of £2:2:8 on your account on demobilisation caused by......
Cost payments received after your.... was closed final settlement made

Will you kindly arrange to refund the above sum to this Office as early as convenient, in order that your account may be finally closed.
A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

For Regimental Paymaster, Army Pay Office.

Reput Wing
Horn Hill
Winchester

Date 15-3-20 1920.