

July 21, 1919.

On train between Brest and St. Nazaire

Dear Folks:-

On account of the motion of the train I have to write this way. Our schedule is a fine one, embracing a tour of the S. O. S. ports for two weeks; then 2 days in Paris; then a week or so in the Meuse-Argonne region; trips to Verdun, Metz, Chateau-Thierry, etc; then trips to Ostend, Lille, Brussels, Waterloo. Next 4 days at Headquarters 1st Div. in Germany; 2 days at Coblenz; then return to U. S. and about 3 weeks leave as far as I can see. Last night we went ashore for 1st time, were entertained by the Y. M. C. A. at Flag Hut with big feed and entertainment; speeches by Maj. Gen. Helmick, chief of Section 5 S. O. S. and by Rear Admiral Halsted, chief of fleet in French waters. Returned to ship and stayed until 9 A. M. this morning. Then came ashore to train and put baggage on board. It is in two sections, which were hospital trains, so they contain berths for us to sleep in. Dining cars also attached. Berths in tiers of 3, but we only use middle and lower. Upper for our trunks. 24 men in each car. It is very comfortable. At 10:20 left train in trucks to see Brest. (We carry trucks on train with us). Went to great concentration camp called Camp Pontanezen, of which you have heard so much. It will accommodate about 80,000 now. They gave us best dinner I ever had. Don't say the A. E. F. is not best fed of all armies or people in world. Speech by Brig. Gen. Butler of Marine Corps, who had made camp. He says American Army did win the war and I believe it. Went thru delousing plant. Saw enormous size of camp. Returned to train. Left for St. Nazaire, one of S. O. S. ports at about center of coast. Next to Bordeaux and then to Tours. Wonderful opportunity.

Must go to bed now. Love to all from your busy son.

Maurice

P. S. We receive mail about 4 times while here and can send it every 5 days.

AMERICAN

YMCA

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WITH THE

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