

Mr 11

1

December 8, 1917.

Dear Father:

I have just signed up for \$10,000 insurance, making it payable half to you and half to Mother in case of my death. As you may know, these policies, when they become a claim by death or total disability, are payable in 240 monthly installments (of \$57.50 each). Most of the fellows here believe that during the war at least it is well to have the maximum protection.

I have a letter from Mother telling of receiving the allotment for September and for a while was worried because she mentioned having spent it, but after remembering that I had drawn the money in advance, I lost no more sleep over it. I trust that the future \$20 checks will be put into the Riverside and I will tell you when to put it into Liberty Bonds and other investments. I am broke at present and scarcely dare draw a check on the Riverside Trust Co. altho there is supposed to be a small balance there. I may yet take a chance and draw a dollar or two, altho I don't know that you haven't withdrawn the money under your authority. Don't do it if you can help it, at least until you are out of communication with me.

Mail is coming in small bunches now-a-days. The latest we have received from home is Emily's letter of Nov. 11th, mailed the 12th, reached here about Dec. 5th.

Our regular billet has lately been used for a bunch quarantined for measles, but in a very few days, we hope to be back, which will seem good after living with the squad divided in inferior quarters. The fellows are saving up their Christmas and other packages received to celebrate the return to our own billet. Since I have been living away from "home" I have done no letter writing with the exception of one to Alfred.

We have been having some weather with a touch of l'hiver in it, and it is some relief to have the ground and roads frozen since it saves about an hour a day spent in cleaning shoes and puttees.

I have drawn and cashed a check for \$2 (for which I gave myself 11.30 f.) and will use it to get my laundry out of hock, get a tub bath when I get into town, and perhaps buy some Christmas cards to send to the U.S.A.

Dr. Miel was in town yesterday but didn't preach to-day (Sunday Dec 9th) Keep in touch with Mrs. Tilton and Miel and you can probably get news about us.

Your loving son

Chandler

Mr 11

2.

December 16, 1917.

Dear Folks:

Having bought some ink and filled my fountain pen, I intend to reform and write letters. Incidentally I hope you are maintaining your schedule of a letter every day or two for us.

Dr. Miel spoke this morning at the Y.M.C.A. Also last night there was a pretty good movie show there. It was a success in that the machine only broke down a couple of times. At the last previous attempt, it would die out every other minute.

Things are going pretty well now. In other words, the personnel of the billet seems to be settled for a while, the stove burns all right, and we have been paid.

In accordance with my old habit of not carrying much money with me, I poked 120 francs into the Farmer's Loan Trust Co. (of New York). I thought I might mention that I had an account with them although it will always be small owing to the amount I allotted home.

I am anxious to know whether the quarterly dividends, or rather the October dividend, on the Am. T. and T. stock came through all right.

Jack Wiley has just received a telegram from his father at Paris and is expecting to see him here, if Mr. Wiley can find out where we are and can get permission to make the trip.

Just before dinner to-day, Madame la patronne brought us up a large basket full of fine pears. After dinner I returned the basket and was invited in by the mayor to have a drink of his vin rouge with him. I had quite a long conversation with him and his household. They are fine substantial people and are certainly good to us. Their most frequent expression is "Quand vous avez besoin"-- referring to about anything they own.

One afternoon last week I went into town, but didn't manage to spend much. Managed to get some New Year's cards which I must address toute de suite.

Since you folks have mentioned sea sickness, I may as well proclaim that I did not suffer from it, altho many did on one or two days before we hit shore. A slight lack of fresh air below decks was the only thing that bothered me. That is ancient history now.

With lots of love

Chandler.