**Knights of Columbus**

**War Activities**

In France

August 1918

My Dear Mother,

I received your letter and also two letters from Agnes and was very glad to get them. The only trouble with them, they are too short. Tell Agnes that I got the cross from her and that I am wearing it. I received the book from the American Chain Co. and I was very much pleased with it. I want her to thank the A.C.C. for it. When you will, let me know how many letters you have received from me; this one is about the tenth letter I have written. I wrote to Frank three times but got no answer yet. When you write him, send him my address for I would like to hear from him. I also wrote to John at the London address but never heard from him. Well mother I have been in the trenches a few times and we were very lucky. We had very few casualties. We were in the same sector of trenches that Frank’s division was in. We took their place more than six weeks ago, but are now in a different sector now. The poor fellows that took our place over four hundred of them were gassed the first day in, so that was a bad start. The last time I came out of the trenches I met an East End follow named James Kerwin. He was a clerk at the Remington W.M.C Bridgeport. I was looking for Jack Barnwell but couldn’t find him. I haven’t seen him since I was in Southampton; he came over on the same boat as I did. We had a wonderful trip. We came over on the fastest boat afloat. It only took us a little over seven days after we left New York. We came over without any trouble, we didn’t even see one sub. We were convoyed through the danger zone by American destroyers and when we sighted them, you can bet we all felt much safer. Since I have been in France, I have done quite a lot of traveling from one end to the other all in nice side door Pullman’s. But we don’t mind that as long as we get there. The nearest I have been to Paris was one Sunday afternoon we traveled all around the outskirts in a box car about five miles from Paris proper. I could see most of the big buildings and the Eiffel Tower. We certainly got a great standoff where ever we passed through. The French people are sure glad to see us. This country sure is short of men, at home in the towns all you can see is old men, old women, and young children working in the fields. It is a fine sight to look over the fields and mountainside to see…(blacked out)… which has just been…. (blacked out)… you asked me about the money. I didn’t make any over. The government don’t handed it unless we have dependents. They have so much to handle with the allotments that some of the fellow’s wives and dependents haven’t got anything yet. Believe me, I can use all the money I can get. I have only got two pays since I left the states. I wrote asking for money in May but I guess you never got the letter. I understand Margaret was going to send me a couple of bucks but forgot more. But the crimps in it. telll her it is all right, but if she feels like that again, don’t let anything stop her. Money orders of cash it is safe either way. Ask Agnes where she got that sergeant stuff from. I haven’t been made one yet but expect the best you never can tell, one day a sergeant next day back to the ranks as a buck private. This is a family outfit. You never can tell. Out of my company four sergeants got commissioned as second LT’s and shall be sent to the officers’ training school. Tell the girls to write every day for it sure is fine to have lots of mail to read. I got only a few of the newspapers the last mail but may get more later. If any of the girls see Herbert, ask him to write me a long letter. Well Ma, it… (blacked out) … now. Give my love to (blacked out), Aunt Kittie, to the girls and lots of love for yourself. You will have to excuse the scribbling for I am in the front line trenches on observation and lots of shells are passing over my head and I have to keep ducking. This is a fine business. I hope you will be able to read this letter. Remember me to all my friends. Good bye and lots of love.

Bill XXX

P.S. Ma my Libery Bond was all paid for in July when you get, let me know.

Bill

Give my love to the Dual boys and tell them I will send them something the first change I get.