

Knights of Columbus
OVERSEAS SERVICE



ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

A.P.O. *Camp La Beholle*
Near Verdun

DATE *Jan. 21 1919*

Dear Bess:-

Your grand letter of Dec 26 came last night and of course I was as happy as a kid with a bonbon. I am so glad you had a happy white Christmas. It is a good omen I'm sure and I sincerely hope that you will be an untroubled of ailment from this time forward. Your point is well taken regarding the furniture in my room at the Hotel Medeterance (can't spell it). It would of course be essential to provide either a place to eat or a range. I am very sure that I shouldn't have overlooked a vital point like that even if I am blinded by Eos. My experiences to date have taught me most emphatically that it is very very essential that food be provided in plentiful quantities even if clothing has to be overlooked sometimes. Some of my men have been pretty close to nature at various times as to clothes but if there happened to be plenty of roast beef and baked beans it was

a happy bunch. But leave off the cats
for a meal or two and it made one
"h-" of a mean man" to put it as they
do. Therefore I won't overlook that end of it
nor any other I hope. The stationary George
and May gave you is simply grand and it
makes me sorry to have to answer it on
this kind but even this brand is at a high
premium here. I think Mary's picture is
pretty fine myself. You know I have two
heart pockets in my house. Naturally you
can guess whose picture stays in the left
hand one. I keep Mary's and mamma's in the
other. Yours is the one you sent me at
Doriphan and it has never left me from
that day to this nor will it ever. It's been
through all the trials and tribulations and
happy moments same as I have. I have looked
at it many many times and imagined that
you were there in spirit as I know you were
and it's helped a lot especially when things
were blue and it would look as if I'd suddenly
blow up if another thing went wrong. I've
never blown up and my disposition isn't
so very bad. ~~on~~ That picture saved it. The
biggest worry I've ever had was when I
learned that the original of that picture had
the "flu" and the happiest day was when
that letter came saying you'd walked up

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town. I am hoping that Nice will not be
an impossibility to us and I don't believe
it will. You did right to send your proxy
to Bodley, he's to be trusted absolutely.

We are having another spasm of moving.
There have been orders out twice to move
us back to a dirty little old French village
but each time Gen. Berry has been able to get
them canceled, because we have better quarters
here than we can possibly get in a town.
I suppose though that we'll go this time. I
heard a real good rumour the other day.
To show you how they start I'll just trace
this one for you. An ordnance sergeant
(not that ordnance) who was overhauling
F. Bty's guns told the Lt. who went after
them that his own commanding officer, a
Lt. had been told by the General's aide that
our guns were being overhauled so that
they could be turned in at Le Mans on

Jan 27 which happens to be the Kaiser's birthday (so he said) and then we'd all go home. Now the whole foundation for that nice tale was the definite order for us to move back to a little old village and be billeted not far from Bar-le-Duc and about 40 miles from here. It's my opinion that we'll stay there until Woodie gets his pet peace plans refused or OKed. For my part, and every AEF man feels the same way I don't give a whoop (to put it mildly) whether there's a league of nations or whether Russia has a Red Government or a Purple one and if the President of the Czechs-Slovaks wants to pry the throne from under the King of Bohemia let him pry but send us home. We came over here to help whip the Hun. We helped a little, the Hun yowled for peace and he's getting it in large doses and if our most excellent ex-mayor of Toledo wants to make a hit with us, hell hire or buy some ships and put the Atlantic Ocean between us and the Vin Rouge Sea. For my part I've had enough Vin Rouge and Frogater rituals to last me a lifetime. And anyway it looks to me like the Moon shine business is going to be pretty good in the land of Liberty Loans and Green Trading stamps and some of us want to get in on

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the ground floor. At least we want to
get there in time to lay in a supply for
future consumption. I think a quart of
Bourbon would last me about forty years.

I hope you have a most happy birthday
and that you never see another one without
me to help celebrate and then may they go on
without end. Remember me to your mother
and Fred and Frank and Watahe and Joyce
and May and just keep writing when you
feel inclined because I love you

Harry Timmer Always
Cpt. 0129 FA Harry.
American E.F.