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6-30-18

Officer's Mail



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June 30, 1917.
1918

Hello Kiddie -

Sunday today and I took it a wee bit easy - got up at eight, and only spent about four hours out in the country. The rest of the day I was witnessing the ceremony of presentation of Distinguished Service Crosses to six officers and men of the division.

The scene was a beautiful meadow surrounded on three sides by low hills, and on the fourth by a beautiful wood. A battalion of Infantry was the guard of honor and they looked real smart with their colors

flying; and all lined up for
Review and Parade. General
Pershing made the presentation
and reviewed the battalions
then all who had received
the Cross lined up with
the reviewing officers, and
witnessed the parade. It
was truly an inspiring
sight what with the band-
four or five generals - a
lot of Colonels etc - and
best of all the ideal
location taken along
with a beautiful sky.

The ceremony was to
have been this a.m. but
Gen. Pershing did not arrive
as per schedule, so it was
postponed till this after-

noon. while we waited this a.m.
three Fritz flyers thought they'd
get gay, and see ~~was~~ what was
happening. Soon three Frenchmen
were after them, and there followed
the most exciting, and interesting
scrap I've seen yet, except the one
the other night. Air scraps are
heaps of fun.

In five minutes two planes were
falling at the same time - and
a mighty cheer went up. One was
falling close to us - the person had
quit - when we saw it was a French
machine. He just flopped thru'
the air in the most helpless
sort of fashion - until he was close
to the ground, then off he shot
at a tremendous speed. A beautiful
trick no? It was sure beautiful
to watch. and Fritz saw him
recover too, and down he came
no more like \, and like a
plummet - He got a few more shots
in but gave up and went home.
See he was so close we could see
him ~~going~~ using his gun and all his

manoeuvre.

The other that fell was a Boche - went to see him later. His machine had caught afire in the air and all I saw was a mass of burnt timbers tangled iron and scorched flesh. It isn't a pleasant sight - yet those are the things that bring victory closer. We learned later that the third machine had been brought down after he started home - but we were so busy watching the other two we missed it. A Three Ring Circus is too much.

I think tomorrow I'll get my suit if I can get to Beauvais - It's quite a ways

and time is hard to find. It's the first
tho' and I'll have a little money. Ah!
don't you worry I'm getting along all
right - I don't need more money.
you are doing too well laying it away.
Shirk of it \$200 in the bank that's
more than I ever had.

going to write to Ahe and go to
bed, so I'll bid my sweet heart good-
night. making love to you like I'd
have to win you all over again, with
even more rivals than before. I won't
have to win you again when I come back,
will I? Course not 'cause we know
what really true love is. wanting you
a lot sneaky and hoping to see you soon
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