

Tom P. Walker
1st Lt. S.C.
2nd Field. Bn. S.C.
at F. France

Official Mail



10-19-18

Mrs. Tom P. Walker

506 W 113^d St.,

New York.

N.Y.





HOTEL DES ANGLAIS & RUHL
NICE

Oct. 19, 1918.

and now (change
pens) my sweet wife
let's you and me have
a good long talk - 'cause
I've been neglecting you
terribly for almost a
month now, and I
know it's been a
month of worry and
torture. I've started
several letters in all
~~at~~ ^{this} time, and I've
thought of you time
and time again -
each day - each hour -

and I've missed that
you were cheerful -
that you were not
ruffled, and that your
wonderful faith did
not once forsake you.

I've forgotten where
I wrote last - was
it in the woods
back of ~~the~~ St. M.
Michel after we had
chased all the Boche
out of that salient,
and settled ourselves
comfortably in his
rest and training camp.
No. I've certainly written
since then perhaps when
we were close to
Bersntown. Did I tell

you off the shrine
there where people
gather to be cured
of all sorts of maladies?
Quite a beautiful little
chapel connected with a
monastery that served
as division headquarters
while we were there.
The choir was quite
a good one, and the
services very quaint -
however I saw no
cures effected.

Then we went to
scrap a bit. (I fancy
that you at home
imagine us at the
bayonets point all the
time. I know that I

had that situation
~~before~~ before I got into it.
No, breaky - it's not so -
we go into a snap -
work like friends under
terrible strain for
five, six maybe ten
days - then some one
else comes along to
take up the job and
we assemble again for
reorganization, reple-
ment and training. We
are exposed a very small
portion of the time -
and truly it isn't so
horrible that anyone
with a reasonable
control of himself
can't control himself.



HOTEL DES ANGLAIS & RUHL
NICE

This last show
was our toughest. We
were fighting close
to the German border
and the Boche was
particularly jealous of
every inch of ground.
He fought well - and
hard, because he was
the Kaiser's best - his
pride. But we are
Uncle Sam's best - Per-
shing's pride (that's the
1st Div.) and we were
just enough better to
give him a good beating.
It was hard tho' -

hard to see my ^{pat}
sergeant - a wonderful
old - brave and capable
fell not twenty feet
from me - my orderly
a careful, faithful little
chap got it too. (There
werent many but they
seemed to) strike so
close to home.

It was exciting to -
wonderful excitement -
golly what a feeling a
fellow has - his just
wild - he's made a
big jump - there's no
turning back - so here
goes. And if he can
find in himself some
sense of a protecting
duty, some strong

faith in a personal
protector - he goes thru
it all with a beautiful
sense of exhilaration.

Have two samunms
too - one my sheepskin
coat with I hate thru
the collar where a
piece of high explosive
shell banged thru to
hit the edge of my
helmet. Possibly I will
bring that home - to
you! The other I can
not for it's a coil of
wire with a machine
gun bullet thru it -
punctured while I car-
ried it on my shoulder.
yes it was exciting
but that's the last

for some time. It
be a regular typed
office, and will have
(no), which is to go
over the top with a
padding job - that's
the only someone
characterized that job. It's
a good one too and
we need to wait
for it. Re-
members I did it
at a typing course I
was the first - and
not till now did
my turn come again.
It's wonderful to
have been there at
all, and now that
Italy is almost ready



HOTEL DES ANGLAIS & RUHL

NICE

to give up, I'm
more glad than ever
that I ~~at~~ got into
it early, and saw it
all this! Think of fighting
this war in the
states - or in Paris -
or some quiet French
village - horrible!! I
can't imagine anyone I'd
exchange places with
I didn't last for
it all. But enough gas
to lay me up for about
a week, and when I got
on my feet we had
moved out of there

to let another division
take up the job. As
soon as we ~~got~~ were
able to get around to
reading the mail I
discovered that a month
ago today Sept 19 I was
made a 1st Lieut. - and
became 1st Lieut. put over
a fair job, and might
read a rest in now
on a seven days leave.
This should be my
second but there's been
too much to do - and
so it's the first.

We just now got
settled in this place -
the Hotel des Anglais et
Ruhl - said to be the
finest in Europe and

that went to the other
world for another year
now so fine in the
states. The trip was
interesting. I have known
by with to the way where
me (Capt. Brown a Yale
man and a good fellow)
is my brother for the
trip) stocked up ^{with} ~~and~~
clothes etc. - Will we
look more like light
opera heroes. Then an
all night and a half
day trip to Paris where
we spent the after-
noon shopping some
more.

Paris is real excited

about 2000 people in the
square in front, and
the night before the
celebration the people
of Lille in light
up the city for the
first time in four
years. Paris is truly
a wonderful place.

Then ~~thirty~~ ^{thirty two}
~~hours~~ ^{and} ~~one~~ ^{hour} on a
very comfortable train.
(only we couldn't get
baths and had to
take turns on one
seat from Marseilles)
with a wonderful
restaurant, we arrived
in Nice - and Nice
was lit up as bold



HOTEL DES ANGLAIS & RUHL

NICE

as you please. Since
I arrived on this side
it's the first place
I've been that is
free from air raids -
and therefore the
first place I've seen
any lights from the
street. It sure seemed
great.

Today it is raining
(rather off season in
Nice) - think of one-seventh
of this joyous occasion
spent in side with
the Riviera running

past the door - the
Mediterranean inviting
meditation - and waste
only one half hour
away. Those will come
later - suffice this
beautiful place for
calm quiet rest and
a chance to play
even with a wonder-
fully patient wife eating
her heart out for
news of a lad - that's
sawdling about the
play grounds of Europe.

It's costing about
800 francs for this
trip. Sweetheart - clothes
and all - It's much. Well
I've spent very little.

these last two months
and I've defired in-
creasing your allotment
longer than I should.

Now you may expect -
starting from November
1st (that's the check
you get Dec 1st) a hundred
twenty five \$125 per month.
I'd like to know that
you get it, so please
let me know of it.

I'm paying 15 frs. a
day for the most beaut-
iful room you can
imagine - could get
cheaper but it's been
a long stretch now
since I've had anything
but a chicken wire

back on a short trip,
and the Spring garden.
and the small village
dinner & suggested savings
12 fms. but that is,
cludes every thing but
the charged French-
man even dinner in
the way of good eats -
and there is a little of
very good wine to go
with it.

There is lots more
I'd like to talk
about - but there
are more days to
come and correspondence
will be easy here. I
must tell you of the
people one must have,



HOTEL DES ANGLAIS & RUHL
NICE

of the wonderful scenery,
oh of lots of things -
and then some day
within the week of
the day we must
celebrate has then
a month from now.
a year a bride and
six weeks married.
you sweet dear - you
deserved better - I
always planned better
for you - I wanted you
to be the happiest
girl in the world -
and see how it has

all come want! I am
as it yet and will -
but that first heart
for you for which
life will always be
opened for you - and
I am ever happy for
you. Live a long and
happy life, make up for
~~it, that is the only way~~
for me, than the task
of wandering out all
this year of living -
and ~~and~~ these first
years of hard laboring
to make yourself first
what you are - the most
beautiful little
girl in the whole world.
Love
XXX