

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"

Sunday 10 Feb. '18.

Mother, Dear & Sis,

I'm settled - located - and assigned, with a regular army outfit, and part of the first army of this war, and now doing my best to hold the line assigned to the Sammies. That all sounds horrible doesn't it? Well it isn't because I've landed better than any of the bunch who came over with us. Let me tell you the story, just to let you know that I'm very very well satisfied, and certain that they believe I will make good.

Of the nineteen who left the Presidio, nine were diverted somehow to work in offices and such throughout France. They were the older men who had had long years training as telephone.

and telegraph men. They have what we call "Cush" jobs just now - the kind they give to the older heavy waisted fellows. Ten of us got to school, and by some chance I made record in the lot. So the first man and I were taken for this work and mighty pleased we are. It's great - surely.

Now for what I do. I'm assigned to B Co. of the 2nd Field Battalion. We are the wire company, and have charge of all telephones lines for some miles back of the trenches. I understand that tomorrow I'll be given charge of the construction of a line several miles from here. As part of my equipment I am given a motor cycle side cart with a man to run it, and also a saddle horse.

While we are waiting for a billet in the home of one of the townspeople, we are quartered

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in an officer's Y.M.C.A. Hut, and
mighty comfortable. Being only 2nd
Lt's. we are allowed only one
"striker" (orderly) for the two, but
he has plenty of time to fix our
beds, take care of our equipment,
and clean our boots. We are
treated royally - and in very
little danger. Set that because
there is no cause at all for
your worrying.

Wish I could get some mail.
I'm wondering what's happening with
all you people. For instance did
Kuth get the assessment all fixed
up. She was to get money from
Washington but we couldn't be sure
but what it would be delayed for
some time. Another thing I'm
anxious about is whether you

are to visit New York this summer. all the folks there are mighty anxious to see you and Eva - just crazy to see you. And Ruth too - poor girl she must be lonesome. Think what it will mean for her to see you? By golly it will put new life in her. Please go.

About the first of April I'm going to send you \$50 that I should like to see go for that trip. If more is needed I want you to tell me, and maybe I can spare it before you start. If I can't ^{it} then certainly I can when you get back. I'm really very anxious that you go - and ~~but~~ want you to tell me what is needed. Please oh please!!

I'm hoisting strong for this Ymca work because it appeals to ~~me~~ me so wonderful. They have these huts in every conceivable place with cigarettes, candy, hot chocolate, and all those

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little comforts for sale. Then they have stacks of this paper for everyone with plenty of desks, tables, benches, magazines, and every thing to bring cheer to those here, and those at home. And their entertainments - real artists playing to packed houses right up to the front line. E.H. Soltrum gave a program in the building next this one last night. I was busy with the commanding officer and could not attend but those who did said it was great. We are being well taken care of sure enough.

Our mess is good too. Invaluable Signal Corps officers have a mess organized, and we get the best of every thing to eat, and it

address. Tomp Walcott
2nd Lt. Sig R.C.
Co B. 2nd Field Bn. Signal Corps.
A.E.F. France.

isn't very expensive - about 6 francs
(\$1.05) a day.

Also I'm building up a col-
lection of souvenirs. Have some
lace collars, and some embroidery
that will make your eyes pop out.
These French peasants are beautiful
workers. I'm going to save them
till ~~they can~~ I come back, and
not trust them to the mails.

Have to write to wife now.
Sounds strange for your son to be
talking like that, doesn't it?
Well he's mighty proud and happy
to be able to say it. He'd like
to see his wife too right about
now - course it's a lonesome place -
without even letters. Ah well
Abri la guerre finis then.
la! la! me for a quiet nest
somewhere to settle down for
good.

Good night, dear folks, here's
hoping you're all well - Love
Tom.