

Domt. Walker
2nd Lt. S.R.C.
2nd Field Bn. S.C.
A.E.F. France.



Mrs. Frances Walker,
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Elko,
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From Tom's letter of Sunday, April 28, 1918.

"Do you know I just now found out that it is Sunday, and it's 9 o'clock already. A fellow doesn't know where he is one small part of the time.

"First I must tell all about what has happened to me. Gee I'll bet you are scared, aren't you? Oh what's happened? Nothing much, only I've finished a mighty enjoyable spell with the French Army on some special job. It was really great sport - I made good friends there - learned a lot - an awful lot - about my job - and also about French, and too I had demonstrated to me the genuises of the French cook - potatoes and beef are the chief foods - and to see the wonderful combinations and variations they can make is a revelation!!! Better bring home a blond or a brunette?

"And now that I'm back they did not reassign me to my company, but gave me a much more interesting job. More interesting because now I must keep in close touch with all communication within a division - and it's great sport. Somehow or other my lucky star follows me even to France. I'm unlucky in this that I'm away from the old bunch that I got to like very, very much. Not so very far however that my side-car or the Cadillac (my boss, a Major, and I got a brand new Cadillac today) cannot reach them.

"But that isn't the best of all - uh-uh. Yesterday I got two letters and A BIG BOX OF CANDY. Whe-e-e-e-e-e-e. This war wasn't a bit exciting till last night when that box came. It's the first of all those you've written of and it came in beautiful shape. Gosh I was happy as I untied it and on taking out each piece I thought of the little mumblings you must have said over it "Hope you like this, Tommy" - etc. etc. Bet I liked it and I wasn't stingy cause I gave some of the fellows a piece or two. The rest I'm hoarding. Didn't hoard quite enough today cause I ate myself a wee bit sick. But gosh when a fellow hasn't had any for nearly three weeks, he ought to.

"Tonight I'm going to write to your folks and comfort them a bit because they could not send that box. Guess maybe they (the Canucks) think we are fighting a different war to what we are. It is really too bad, for I know what pleasure there was in sending it, and also what regret in not getting it. Perhaps they'll find a way - I hope so.

"And the wonderful success you are having with the bills. It was nice of Jack Milne to write as he did, wasn't it? Hope we can go together to Haverhill some day, because I want all those people to know you and you to know them.

"And Peter is good to you too, isn't he? I'm glad because while now I can't think much of future plans, it's might good to know Peter better, and to know he is interested in us. I sure think a whole lot of anyone who is good to you, now that you are a lonesome widow.

"I've been interrupted about seventy times by the telephone since I started this letter and now it's 10:30. Guess I can't write to your folks tonight - ah, well tomorrow! Kinda tired too, and I haven't done an awful lot. It's the weather, cold and damp."

May 2nd - "Since I last wrote I've had one beautiful letter from Mother with a package containing a pair of socks which she had knit. They came together, wish your packages would come that way too. And then I had 2 wonderful letters from you. It's a wonderful sensation when they come - really you can't imagine it. To be transported from all the rush and worry - the mud and grime of this business - right back to you, - is the greatest experience of all the weeks.

"I'm glad you heard from someone else that Conley and I landed better than any of the S.F. bunch. Perhaps you thought before that I had told you so in order to make you feel more content. It isn't so, Sneaky, altho I will tell you everything that can let you know how comfortable and well I am. I'll never stretch the truth enough to

disparage others. But it is the best for a great many reasons - and the greatest because we were judged as prepared to do the work we are doing. This war is to be won at the front, not by instructors or clerks back in the interior who get their jobs because they have done that work perhaps all their lives and haven't what it takes to adapt themselves to the real work - that has to be done over here! Their work is necessary to be sure but it's too much like carrying water at a football game to suit me. I know that you can understand all this, that's why I tell it. If Mrs. Walker's previous name had been anything but Pyle, I'd have to tell what a hard government this is to send such a valuable piece of bric-a-brac right up to the front. "n'est ce pas"

"Something just happened that I'm not supposed to know a thing about (?) The boss is impatient about a promotion for Ed and me, and just now slyly gave the clerk a letter about it. I'm impatient too, aren't you?"

"Everything goes quietly. My work now is mostly administration and management, and at present things are fairly well organized. I'd like to have a certain stenographer I know to help me out!!!

"Sometime a German prisoner told us that they were promised peace after this drive. That may mean much or little - take it for your comfort who looks for that constantly."