

Germany Thursday.  
May 1, 1919.

Hello Mother Dear,

my time has been broken up so much this last ten days that I don't know when I wrote you last. Had a letter from you last Saturday, and was mighty happy for it. One of Eva's enclosed told of meeting Herb Rice in Virginia. That pleased me too. Do you know that neither Bert nor Eva write to me and I have written quite often.

Last week was the big 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Carnival and it was a monstrous affair. almost an international exposition. There was a horse show where the best horses in the army

were made to go through  
their paces by the best horse-  
men in the army. Then there  
was an auto show - an air-  
plane show in the air and on  
the ground - a track meet  
whose stars were the track  
champions from all over the  
state - There were races with  
English, French, and American  
officers competing, and as a  
finale an airplane shot down  
an observation ~~to~~ balloon in  
flames. It was some show.

I was an official at the track  
meet and so had a weeks  
holiday in Coblenz to see it all

But, now ~~so~~ Mother dear  
I'm in the hospital - Can  
you imagine any thing more

cheerful than that - and me with orders to report to the 90<sup>th</sup> Div. which leaves very soon - a week or so - for home.

It's a sad story. Monday I met Kenneth Booth - member the Capt. I went to see in Pens about training camp just before going to Trisco. He was city editor of the Journal. I met him at the officers club and he'd just got ordered to the 36<sup>th</sup> Div. which is also on its way home. Of course we were glad to see each other, and I was taking him out to the camp for supper when the side car skidded we hit a tree and away we went to the hospital.

I was only bruised - my right leg quite badly - but I'll be O.K. in a few days. Kenneth was badly hurt - both legs broken - one of them in three places. That's what broke me up - the fact that he's hurt and that he got it as my guest. It seems like we aren't supposed to go home right away. However, I'll be with the 90<sup>th</sup> Div. pretty soon and on my way home - I'll cable the exact time and place, and hope that you'll be exact when it happens.

There really isn't a lot of news

To tell except what has been  
told and I'm afraid that won't  
be news if the Reno papers get  
hold of it. You'll be worrying  
around till you find from me  
that all's O.K. and it is too  
mother, dear.

Of course we're much con-  
cerned about the Peace Conference  
as everyone is - but our gravest  
concern is getting home. In  
a few weeks all the officers  
of the Division who do not  
wish to stay in the service  
will be homeward bound  
with other Divisions. I've  
hollered enough about it - that  
why I'm the first from the  
Sig. Bn. to go. Hope they don't  
countermand the order 'cause

I'm laid up for a few days.

Here's a letter I got today -  
when I get a chance I'll have  
a copy typewritten for you. I  
want to keep the original awhile.

From. Division Signal Officer  
To. me

Subject. Commendation.

The D.S.O. is pleased to  
furnish you herewith an extract  
from a letter of Colonel Karl  
Ingersoll, asst. to Chief Sig. Off.  
A.E.F. dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1919,  
commending the services of your-  
self and assistants in the com-  
pilation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ild. Sig. Bn.  
History.

"I finished reading over  
the other day the most wonderful

and I am not misusing the word at all,  
history of the Second Field Signal Battalion.  
It is by far the best work that has  
as yet been received in the American  
A.E.F. Walker and his helpers mixed just  
the right amount of comedy - bathos,  
narrative and real sound Signal Corps  
principles in the history to make it  
easy to read and instructive at the  
same time. They should both be  
highly complimented. If you are turning  
out any extra copies kindly save one  
for me, otherwise let me know and  
I will have a copy made from the  
file upstairs."

Sydney. 1st Cavalry  
Lt. Col. H.C.

That - "By far the best in the  
A.E.F." sounds pretty good doesn't it?  
well I had the best subject - this  
good old outfit.

Pen's running dry. I'll have to  
quit. You'll hear pretty soon just  
when to expect me -

Loads of Love

Tom x x x x