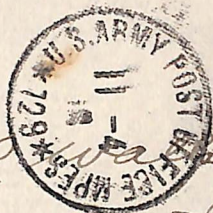


Joseph B. Waller
1st Lieut. Sig. Corps.
2nd Fed. Sig. Bn.
A.E.F. Germany.

Officer's mail

(Pete's letter)

Mrs. Joseph B. Waller
506 W. 113th St.,
New York,
N.Y.



Former Austrian Ship
Zrinyi,
Spalato, Dalmatia,
23 Mar, 1919.

Dear Tom,

Pardon the effeminate looking paper. It's all the canteen has.

I sure was glad to get your letter. I had heard of your good fortune, and I believe wrote congratulating you, but evidently the letter never arrived. You have had good luck, and I'm glad. As for me, I was on convoy duty for a couple of months, then a month in the States, then ten days at Naval Headquarters, London, through France and Italy to Corfu, Greece, where I was detachment radio officer for 36 subchasers, fitted with both telephon and telegraph. Lots of work. Had six weeks in Italy training chaser radio forces in practice hunts, etc, and after

the armistice came up here as
force electrical officer for two
battleships and two torpedo boats.
I haven't been under fire. Only
danger was from subs, or air
raid, which doesn't count.
Was in London for the biggest air
raid of the season, and in Paris
while the long range gun was
busy. It dropped a couple
of shells a couple or three blocks
away. So you see I'm not
the "hardened veteran" that
you are. Was promoted to Lieut
Sept 21, though I got the "papers"
only recently. We've been almost
out of touch with the world.

I asked for my discharge
Dec 12, but it was refused, no
relief available. It looks now
as if we might get back home
by July. That's all guesswork. I'll
get out as soon as they will let
me.

Now as to our plans. I too
think "the sooner the quicker."

I'm for resigning from UofN and digging right in. As to where, I have some few misgivings about Reno. It has the advantage that we're known there, but it depends on the mines too largely, and the mines depend on the price of silver, and if the price of silver doesn't drop now it will in a few years. I do favor the West. The East gets my goat. What say you to California? You know that part of the country. My mind runs toward southern central Cal. If we do go there the installations will be small in size.

As to funds available, I haven't as much as I should have, — probably \$2500 in bank and salary not drawn. Not much, and yet it will do. Will have a little more by the time I get home.

It strikes me as a good scheme to decide what part of the country we want to live in and get a start in, then go there, if necessary

get jobs as "boomer" electricians in some shops, to get a little first hand dope on how things are going, and perhaps see whether our choice of a place was a wise one. What think you? The time might be well spent.

I have the idea that we must start on small stuff and grow bigger. Does that sound too modest for you? My mind runs toward an electric repair shop, - large work preferred, but not even the humble electric iron refused. This with the GE agency (if I can land it through Dr. Moss) would get us a start, and presently ~~we~~^{we} would be installing electric pumping ~~up~~ plants. From that it is a short step to factory installations, etc. I believe it would be hard for us to get and make money on big installations, power houses or large factory installations, the first year. Don't want to be over-cautious, but that's my judgement.

This sounds pretty much like Broili's Nevada Mch & Elect Co. And I firmly believe that such a place in a growing town, properly handled, would pay. Broili's personality was against him.

The thing to do is for us to get together and talk it over, then get busy. I'm put in for 15 days leave. Don't know what chance I have, but doubt if I could get up to where you are. Until we or one of us is released a meeting is very difficult. I'll write you the minute I learn anything definite. If one of us reaches the states first, I suggest after the proper vacation he should size up the proposition as much in detail as possible, to decide just what sort of a business and just where to start it. Only I'm not strong for starting in Reno, unless some exceptional opportunity presents itself. It will be a little harder to start somewhere

else, but that will soon be over.

Since I started to write the Exec told me I was to go with a party for a 10 day trip. That kills any chance of my seeing you on my leave, for I know they won't get farther than southern France. There are lots of rumors about when we leave, but nothing official.

I heard somewhere that you thought of teaching in some training school in France. Mrs Blaney wrote me that she had put my name on a list of men available for some sort of reconstruction work, but I heard nothing further of it.

So long. Good luck.

Peter

"Zimyi"

C/o Commander U.S. Naval Forces,
Eastern Mediterranean.

Spalato, Dalmatia