

Oct 12, 1918

Dear Mother,

I haven't been able to write for a week but now that we are settled for a few days at least I can write this once anyway. I have received your letters of Sept 12<sup>th</sup> + 20<sup>th</sup> and Pa's letter of Sept 15<sup>th</sup> since writing last and as no mail has arrived for a week or so I guess I must have a lot more coming somewhere. We got in second class stuff last night so maybe first class will arrive today. Before I go any further I want to tell you that I am not sick and weak and shaky but the reason my writing looks like this is because I'm sitting on the floor and writing this on the top of my mess kit which I am trying to hold on my knees. It isn't the best or most steady desk in the world but it is the best I can find here. The furniture in the room where I am sleeping now consists of straw filled mattresses and that's all. Not a chair in sight so we sit on the only thing that's left to sit on.

You spoke about Mrs. Nardle worrying about Billie but I guess there is nothing much for her to worry about. He hasn't been with us for a long time now. He is far in the rear somewhere and in the language of a soldier he has a "bomb proof job." If he hasn't he would have been back long ago.

I was sorry to hear that Father Curran has been moved. I think I read or someone told me I forget which that he has entered the Army as a chaplain. Did you hear anything about that?

You spoke of some of my letters being missing. Some of our mail around the first part of August was mislaid without being censored and was not sent out when it should have been so maybe that is where some of my letters were but you'll get them some day.

I think from all the mail you are getting that you + Pa made quite a hit at the shore. I'm glad you enjoyed it and hope to be with you next year. I guess my chances are pretty good considering what is happening now. I suppose there is great excitement at home now. I bet the old bells + whistles did some ringing + blowing when the news came through that Germany wanted peace. There is a place near here where they have papers every morning and I usually go down there in the morning to get the latest news but haven't been down this morning so I

don't know whether Germany has agreed to evacuate all captured territory or not. I should think they would for it looks as though they'd be driven out anyway if they don't get out on their own accord. It looks fairly good for peace in a short while. Let's hope so anyway.

Saw a good show last night in a long narrow theatre belonging to the French soldiers. You remember I told you about the 26<sup>th</sup> Div. show about two months ago. Well they have a new show now, ten acts of vaudeville and last night was their second performance. The program with criticisms. (1) Three acrobats—fair—handicapped by small stage, (2) Fellow and girl—comedy talk—good—girl impersonated by a fellow who has a good voice for that work, (3) Recitation by \_\_\_\_\_ (no programs so don't know any of their names)—good, (4) Hard shoe dancer—fairly good—(5) Quartet—good singers and they didn't try to be funny like most quartets—very good. (6) Two fellows (excuse me) "girls" in a dancing act. They made up great as girls but their make up was much better than their dancing but they made a big hit on their looks. (7) Song and a few impersonations by an ex-movie actor—don't know his name. Gave bits of Robt Hilliard's play "A Fool There Was" and of "Dr Jekyll + Mr Hyde." He was "there" and did some good acting. (8) Two Jew comedians—very funny—a big hit. (9) Two men—talking act—blackface and straight man—good comedian—another big hit. (10) Nine fellow musical act—played violins, banjos, cello + ukuleles—very good. They had a fine band with them who played before the show and for the acts and taken all together it was a fine show and greatly appreciated by all who were able to get in and see it. The place was packed to the doors but I had a front row seat which was somehow left empty although the place was half filled when I arrived. I guess everyone overlooked it but me + I grabbed it for there was no slant to the floor + those in the rear must have had a hard time seeing the stage. There are many, many more interesting things where I am than the theatre but I can't tell about them or where I am but from [for?] the fact that I'm here. I have much more to tell about when I get back for I'm in a very historic + interesting place.

Had a surprise visit from Matt [Charles's brother] about a week ago. He came upon our company accidentally while snooping around up near where we were. He was glad to see us + me + me him. He said when he left that he would cable home so you'd know I was alright after the St. Mihiel business. I'm glad I have someone around who can cable for me. Well as he

probable told you I'm well and only hope I can stay well for one month more and then I guess I'll be safe + sure of getting back. It looks like the beginning of the end now all right and the end can't come any to [sic] quick to suit me. One year in this country is enough for me. Well I hope to hear from you again soon and will write soon myself + let you know how I am. With all my love + kisses I remain

Your loving son

Charles

P.S.

Who said the 26<sup>th</sup> was going home. The enclosed which I have just received speaks for itself.

Charles