

Oct. 10, 1918.

Dear Mother:

Just a brief note as I have not been able to write for about ten days.

Another big battle. We are with the French, at Gen. Foch's request, and he has issued quite a complimentary statement to the effect that the splendid work of this division has made possible the big drive on this front. You know what division I am with now, so you can probably keep up with us to some extent.

I came back to our rear echelon today to wash and get a shave, having been relieved by the way, by a Montgomery boy, Lt. Sankey, who recently joined the regiment. Cliff was acquainted with him at the University, though he is a much older man. The Major assigned him to me, with instructions to train him for future use.

Went over the top three times with the Marines inside of a week, as artillery liaison officer. Have gained a few new experiences but haven't time to give any details just now. Came in closer contact with the Boche than ever before, having run within about thirty yards of a machine gun nest. I have seen men run, but I have never seen a man fly as did one Boche who came within my observation. He passed over trenches and dugouts and wire entanglements as if they were only aids to his already full-gear'd speed.

Have seen some very hard fighting, but as to myself, there should be no worry as I am convinced that I am thoroughly bullet proof. Had a fine sleep last night, good shave and chaw today, and never felt better.

And - well, I've just finished reading 19 letters, while the band played the Missouri Waltz. Letters (including those I missed while in hospital) from you, Father, Cliff, Lucy, Little Auntie, Eason, Miss Lucy Gayle (please express my appreciation to her) and Nancy and D. D. Co. Also received Cousin Lucy Flower's letter to you. The last ~~xxx~~ letter was 18th Sept, I believe. You knew by then that I was all right.

Will write again in day or so.

All my love to all,

John.

P.S. I failed to mention G. W. Daniels pictures. Nothing has so convincingly carried me back to the back yard of 215 Moulton.