(10)

On board the [redacted]
Sept. 25, 1915.

Dear Family,

Realizing that you will all want to hear all the news of this important adventure I have decided to write everybody at once. And Cousin Kate can send my letters to Mother and Mother to Grandmother and thus the round will be made.

Everyone started very earnestly making preparations for departure this morning which somehow we all knew was final. A round of

hearty forewells to the boys left on the Island of Wait and our 150 airmen were off. On a small boat we glided pass New York's great sky line all ~~very~~ contented but very thoughtful. At 12 noon we were getting on board the [redacted] and at 5-45 p.m. while all were at dinner we hauled anchor and were off. I left before coffee was served and went up on deck to get a forewell look but was soon ordered inside and orders were given for no soldiers to appose themselves to view. With three or four soldiers at each port hole

we glided out the harbour - bound for - Lord knows where -

Our bunch of embrio aviators have the status of officers en route and are quartered first class with very comfortable accomodations - The food is particularly good and find it a relief to be waited on and to have our beds made up for us also there are sheets. The officers in charge of our detachment are a very nice lot ~~and~~ considerate and accomodating and very well liked by all the boys.

Wednesday Sept 26, 1917

Our destination at last divulged and I know that we will all

be satisfied with [redacted]. I understand that the British have one of the best flying fields there in the world. The prospects look very bright and we are all thoroughly contented with our lot.

The day has been very uneventful everyone wandering around wondering what they are expected to do. Some reading, some standing at the rail gazing, some playing cards ~~and~~ some sitting and talking and some contented to just sit and rest they selves. Some very good musicians have been brought to light and the smoking rings with music of varying merit all day long.

Realizing your fondness for drawings and things artistic I shall draw for you a panoramic view from the port side of our ship —

And this is a view from the starboard side —

The weather is ideal, the sea remarkably calm and no one has been sea sick as yet. However Frank Martin left the dining room rather hurredly today to remove his sweater and although we had only started the soup course

he didnt come back. I expect that he will pass up when he gets a little company.

Thursday Sept. 27.

A heavy fog enveloped us during the night and this morning we could hardly see two hundred yards ahead - No fog horn, however, for it seems that the danger of being detected by a submarine is more serious than the probability of a collission. And by the way as dark comes all the ports are closed and no lights are allowed on the deck whatsoever not even a cigarette

or a pipe. We are still having remarkably calm weather and today we even lack the ground swells. The only indication of motion is the jar of the machinery. During the entire voyage so far not a thing has interrupted the monotony of view, except once I saw a school of porpus, and this afternoon a very young whale was reported to have been seen.

Most of the afternoon was spent in a so-called emergency drill. We donned life preservers and reported on deck, lined up and waited around for an hour

or so. We were then told that in case of accident or alarm we were to take this formation and we would then be told what to do - a compliment to our discipline but a distinct reflection on our intelligence.

A lighthouse sighted about 8 p.m. today and we will probably reach _____ tonight and maybe I will be able to mail this.

Sept. 28, 1917

Well we did, we are here and have just been informed that we will be allowed to send our letters no shore leaves allowed however.

I am already very hungry for home news and I know before I hear from you I will be almost starved so please write at once and address me ~~at~~

Aviation Section, Sig. Corps, U.S.A.
c/o American Ambassador,
London, England.

We are very comfortable, well fed and contented and I am very happy to realize that at last I am well on my way in this great adventure.

I am thinking of and loving my dear folks a great deal. Especially thinking of those last few days at Crows Nest.

Lovingly.

Penrose.