

25th Co. I. I. I.
Fort Slocum, N.Y. Harbor.
Nov. 20, 1917.

My dear Mother:

Here I am with one hour on my hands, and not much to do, so I am going to give you as much news as I can, and waste no words doing it. You see I am grasping ideas, already.

We landed safely in New Rochelle, N.Y. Friday night at 8¹⁵, and gee! what a town, almost as lively as W.T. From the station we took a street car to the boat landing at Glen Island, Here we had an hour to wait, so we were invited into the Red Cross Hut, where they served us hot coffee and sandwiches, and everybody was happy. Then we took the boat over to the Fort. Here, we waited, some more, and finally were listed, and given a towel and told to take a shower, which we did. All cold. Now we had another wait, and finally at about 1³⁰ they took us out, registered us, and marched us over to bunkhouse number 41. Now these are not regular bunks, but sort of two story beds, I crawled into the first floor, and everybody tried to sleep. (But they didn't) It was cold, but nobody minded that, and so we shivered and laughed through the night until the sergeant came in and told

ers a thing or two, so we went to sleep, or at least we just started to, when the bugle blew at 5:45 and we got up, and went to mess. After mess, which was good, we went over to the hospital, got a number, (151) and went up and got rid of some fingerprints, then to the dentist, eye, ear, + nose, doctor, after that we had a physical exam. (pretty strict), and those who passed, were sworn in. After swearing, god and hard, we were vaccinated and inoculated, some of the boys got sick, but I didn't, my arm got stiff a little but it's fine now, and my vaccination itches a little. We didn't do much Saturday afternoon, except get assigned to our barracks, a nice big brick building, full of windows, + air. We got our mattresses, + sheets, pillow, mattress, covers, and blankets. Saturday night, I think we went to bed, early, in fact I know I did. Up at 5:45 Sunday, and after mess, I went to 7:30 Mass, shaved, and took a walk all over the island. Nice place. Sunday afternoon, I just hung around, and at night we went to the movies, fine, Gee, ma there is something going on every night here, and Wednesday night we ^{have} a 14 act vaudeville show, (Keith's Circuit).

We spent all day Monday, getting our kit. So far we have, 2 suits of underwear (heavy) 4 pair socks (wool) 2 pair shoes, 1 shirt (O.D.) 1 hat (campaign) and 1 suit of overalls, + jumper. Last night I took a little walk down to the P.O. to try to send home some clothes

but I was late. so I came back and went to bed.

Up at 5⁴⁵ turned out for reveille (or something like that) had mess, then drilled till 11. At 2³⁰ P.M. I must take my turn in the kitchen. I go on at 3 and come off at 3 tomorrow. Everything is fine, so far, and if you folks don't object I shall enjoy every minute. One of the boys in our "gang" has his "fute" and can play it fairly well, when I get chance I am going to try to learn to play it.

Well I've got to "turn out" now. Gee, how those bugles blow here, tell Cassie, that I can appreciate John Dow's feelings toward that instrument.

Kindly advise me, immediately, whether or not to come home Thanksgiving or not. I think I can get 48 hours.

In haste and in bed,

Phil

Tell the gang I'm too busy to write.

Don't expect me home Thanksgiving, just be surprised if I get there

2nd letter
Rec'd Wed.
Nov. 21, 1917



FORT SLOCUM
MILITARY BRANCH



Mrs. John C. McElligott
91 Fenwood Road
Boston, Massachusetts.

MISS A. CAYEY
BROOKLINE MASS.