



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

KELLY FIELD



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,

Jan 4, 1918 1917

Dear Myra:

I received your letter tonight, and surely would have been disappointed if it hadn't come. Not that I expected it at all, oh no. You see I just gave up expecting mail, early last week, and used to attend mail call to keep in practice. Tonight, however, I felt that I was to get something and sure enough! I was not disappointed. It was some letter too. I understand, now, why your letters were so far apart. The last one I received was on the day after Christmas, and you know what that was.

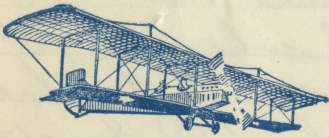
How did Mother and Dad stand up? It must have been a terrible strain. Wasn't it nice though, that Dad's friends are still with him. They say that "Old friends are best friends," but every one I ever met, who knew Dad, had none but the best to say for him.

How do you like the country in the winter time? It certainly is a great place, but under your circumstances, things must have seemed different.

You know I am living in the country. A damned nice little town too. All the people seem to look up to us. So different from the Southern aspect. The first acquaintance I made in the town was with the priest. What do you suppose he asked me? Have you any relations in Iowa? Well, not that I know of; I said. Then he told me he had a very particular friend out there, named James McElligott. What do you know about that!

Well! things are not actually hopping around here. The boys attending classes have their hands full. Nine hours of school a day, lectures and home work at night. Now don't think I am bragging, for when "yours truly" is not "clerk-in-k", he is going like everything. It's no cinch, this business of soldiering, and the people who said "soldiers crave books to read, in their spare hours", must have been sick. We all are getting to be expert caretakers of our selves. Wash anything from the floor up, and make anything from an aero plane to a bed. This here school is running an intensified course, so we are not planning on spending the summer here.

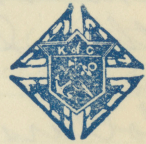
May, I have not yet written to Mr + Mrs Teratus. Will you kindly say a few words to them for me, until I can scratch off a line or two. Tell them both I appreciate their thoughtfulness



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and will surely write. They are not forgotten, just down on the list.

Mary Crosby has not been heard from. I think I wrote her a letter. I wrote to Jeff Cooney, but he won't get it before the 4th of July, I suppose. The day before yesterday I got two letters, one from Mrs and one from Ruth Nangle. I also wrote to John Nangle, Gerry Cleary, and Ed Nangle. Neil's destination was unknown to me so I sent a letter to his house, to be forwarded. Call up and see if his folks got it. Mrs Nangle sent me Neil's address, since then. Oh gee! I wish I had a "stenog." How do think I'll make out? Gee! never thought I'd ever have to use a "typist"

We are not suffering from the cold, here, but I could use a pair of heavy socks. Also send my ear caps, from "somewhere in my bureau," also that white sweater front, that you gave me, years ago. All the old gloves you find in the drawer. I am going to spend a dollar for a wollen cap, and a dollar and a quarter for a pair of those sheep-

skin moccasins like I gave Ma. All this I am going to spend when I get paid. I also owe the Government three dollars for canteen checks, which I bought at Slocum, and a quarter for a spoon which I lost. The rest I'll send home. (when I get it)

Now I'll close before I get to raving, as I so often do.

Hoping that you, Mother, Dad, Essie, and Aunt Em, and all the friends who have been good to us are well, I remain,

As ever,

Your troublesome Buddie
Dick.

Ma doesn't feel so badly about my enlistin', does she? Surely if you all knew how we're getting along you'd want to be here. If ever I get any way near east again I'm going to bring Skelton home. He's a real pal, and we're planning on a great spring. He's a real southerner, from Georgia. Smart? Been appointed an instructor already. Knows every thing about motors, and he's funny.



11AM

ILL.

Miss Mary C. McElligott
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From E. P. M. Cligett
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Rantoul Ill.