

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS



"WITH THE COLORS"

Sunday Jan. 13, 1918

Dear Dad:

Just a word about this insurance proposition. We are ordered to take out as much insurance, as we can carry. How does \$5,000 - sound? It will cost me \$3.25 a month. Most of the boys are taking out \$10,000, but I didn't think I could swing that much. For my age, the rate is .65 per \$1,000. You know there are to be no pensions after this war. The policy premium, or whatever you call the money they pay you, will be paid, not in a lump sum, but in 240 monthly payments. Let Essie on this problem, maybe she can give you a little better information. Now what I want to know is this. Is the \$5,000 - enough? You know our chances are about even. But then, you can't tell. Look at Wallie Shea. I think his folks are entitled to the 10,000, whether he

had taken it out or not. Every man is automatically insured, until Feb. 12, 1918. What I was thinking of was this: If you folks could manage it, I would carry the \$10,000- while in Service, but after Peace is declared, I could drop back to the \$5,000- again. They say it's a darn good investment. I am writing this, while standing up waiting inspection by the Colonel, so if it is hard to read, just try and excuse me.

This morning, being Sunday, we did not have to get up till 5:45. Pretty soft, hey? Imagine me, rolling down stairs at that time of night, at home. You'd think I was sick, wouldn't you? Gee Lad, I'm feeling fine, never felt any better, and the boys tell me I'm getting fat. Can you imagine it? Well as I said before, Sunday morning, after cleaning up, we had mess. (Good eats) We then got about everything ready that we could, and beat it out to Men. about 8 of us. The storm has eased up a little, but its still below 0. They say it has been down as far as 40. I saw one thermometer down as far as 30, and that was as far as the darn could go. Right to the hulk.

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1917

Es tells me you bought me some socks. Gee! but they'll be welcome. You see, I don't know just what is going to happen. Officials in Washington, have ordered the regular Government School System, to be installed here. It is to start next Wednesday. McGowan, our time keep, has received his notice. He gets through when they start. Don't know what is to happen to him. So you see, while as yet I have not been "fired" I might be, by the time you get this. Looks as if my snaf were about over. But ??? I'll keep writing, so you'll know pretty soon what has happened.

The 153rd, can't leave today. No trains. That blizzard certainly raised "the old Harry" out this way, especially with our guards. The poor fellows on the out posts got it something fierce. When the relief went out, they found the boys in bad shape. Some were all in; others had both feet + legs frozen. About everybody has

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had a few ear frozen, and you ought to see the noses. Some of them got pretty badly nipped, but I have been very lucky. One ear frozen, is all, so far, but that's the style here. The Officer of the day, got both of his done up.

McDaniel, my boss, has been out sick for the past week, and pal Skelton was taken to the hospital, with something yesterday. The grippe, I guess, from his complaints, but I haven't had time to get up to hospital yet, to see how he is.

Oh somewhere in my room, is a black tie. lend it along will you? We have to wear them in the barracks.

I went to confession again last Saturday night, but owing to the floor scrubbing, could not get out until 10 o'clock, for High Mass. You ought to hear the choir. Enough to distract anyone. But I suppose the people here are used to it.

I'll never forget the people who remembered me Christmas, they were life savers. Tell Mrs. Smith, that I can never repay her for the comfort that sweater has brought. I mean it Dad.

(advise) Love from, Richard.



Mr. John E. McElligott
91 Fenwood Road.
Boston,
Massachusetts

If not delivered in Ten days return to

E. R. McELLIGOTT.....

152nd Aero Squid'n, Chanute Field.

Rantoul, Illinois.....

ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
(IN THE FIELD)

GENERAL OFFICE

124 EAST 28TH STREET, NEW YORK, U. S. A.