AMERICAN Y.M.C.A.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

July 1 1918

Essie Dear:

I have only a few moments now, and ever so much to say. How I wish I could get caught up with my correspondence. The "post" was very good to me, last time. Brought me four letters and a package. Yes, the famous package has arrived I was awfully glad to get it, as I had been expecting it for so long. Though I appreciate your kindness, and thank you for all the trouble you must have gone to, I must ask you not to send anothe. You see, Essie dear, it is this way; the package contained only such articles as we can buy here, in the canteen, and they are all "British Made." I am sorry, to have to tell you this, but as I see it, you are only paying about four times

the price of the article, that way. If only they were "Yankee" goods, I'd never say a word, but, I guess you understand what I mean. The package contained 1 small can of salmon, 1 small can of marmalade, 1 can of sardines, (very small), 1 small can of chicken soup, and a half pound of sweet chocolate. Well, the marmalade and chocolate have gone their way, but we are holding the rest, till we are broke, and want something to eat. Whatever you do, don't send me any of that "English tobacco". Gee! When I had used up what little American tobacco, I brought over with me, I couldn't go this local stuff so I just stopped smoking.

Poor Jim! What happened to his ship, was she torpedoed? You see, what little news we get over here, comes from Boston. Harry Miet, one of the boys who was at the South Station that night, gets a bundle of Boston Posts, every once in a while, and when he is through with them, he turns them over to

Colsted and me. So far, I have only seen one name, of the many casualties, which I recognized. A Roxbury boy.

You say that you saw Ruth Connell out to Moseley's, and that she writes often? Oh yes, frequently. since I've been in the Army, I think that I have received three letters from her. But then, maybe she did write a few more, but they got lost in transit.

Occasionally, I get a letter which bears the seal, "Opened by the Censor," but so far, not a word has been scratched out. So you see, you are all right. I have a letter before me now, from Ruth Nangle, which was opened, but that was all. The pictures were intact. Gee, I haven't written to her for ages, but you will skip that all right. Won't you dare. She has been good to me, and I know I ought to write. But as I said before

I'm so darn busy. It was early this morning when I came away from the hangar, and today was supposed to be a holiday, as our boys have one more time than any other flight. But the major came around last night and cancelled it. So now it is back to the factory. On account of working late last night, I didn't have to get up for reveille, and as this is Monday morning, the tents had to be scrubbed out. Well just to show you the calibre of my pals, they never woke me to help them scrub, but just took me, blanket and all, and layed me out side. I had just received five letters and was reading the first one, when splash!! I looked up, and here was Robbie, with a basin of cold water, standing over me. The sun was well up, and all the work was done. It was after eight o'clock then, so I knew that if I wanted any breakfast I would have to hustle. You see they let me sleep until the last minute. I did want to go back to sleep though, just

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to finish that letter. It started out great.

We had a "sports day" here, last Saturday, "What" won two prizes, a wrist watch, first prize for the quarter mile, and a card case, second prize for the two-twenty. I was on K.P. in the sergeants mess, so I missed it all. But that's nothing, somebody had to go on.

I shall have to go out and put the things back into the tent now, as it is nearly chow time and I must go to work at one.

Love to all, from

Pick.

Censored by 1st Lt. S.S. R.C.A.S.

C. R. McElligott
152nd Gen Hy Dn.
c/o U.S. Air Forces.
35 Eaton Place
London S.W. 1
England.

P.S. Received the pictures O.K. will acknowledge later.

AMERICAN
Y.M.C.A.
ARMY

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WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

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Soldier's Letter.

E.R. McElligott
53rd Aero Sqdn.
American E.F.

YMCA

EAST HARLEM
23 SP 18

CENSORED
A. 1672

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