FROM A
MEMBER OF
ST. ALPHONSUS ASSOCIATION
(THE LARGEST CATHOLIC CLUB IN NEW ENGLAND)
NOW ENGAGED IN THE SERVICE OF
OUR COUNTRY

England
Sept. 22, 1918.

My dearest Sue:

Tonight I received two letters from you, and was never so surprised in my life. There were those old snap shots, of W.T., Vinton Pond, "yours truly" in a Cadet uniform, etc. What's the matter kidds? Are you getting sentimental? Some how, they didn't seem like your letters at all. Of course, I don't mind if you write in pencil. Write with anything that will make a mark. All I want is news. I'm glad that you are receiving the London cards. Wish that I could have sent more, but you know, I was running on half speed, there, and had to watch my step.

Sam Brown Belt?!!!!x?*(+=:
Where do you get that stuff? Of course we can't wear them. Neither can the Tommies

nor the Canadians, and who ever you see with one on, commissioned officers, or English sergeant majors excluded, is a dog gone foreflusher, and ought to be "turned in." Essie dear, don't you think that we have decorations enough, now: Squadron insignia, on the right shoulder, and service chevron on the lower left sleeve. The non coms have had to remove their stripes from the left arm, (so the service chevrons will not interfer, when they get up that far).

You need not get anxious, we are going to get into this "show" before it is over. We are very ambitious, (now that we are winning) and the sooner we get over, there the sooner we'll know what it is like. We've been over here now for more than half a year, We've had some good times, too. Been a regular picknic. We're ready, now bring on your war. You need not think that just because the boys are over there, living in trenches, and shedding an extra

arm or leg occasionally, that it is all that someone has pictured to you. I've talked with about 'steen different varieties of fellows who have done time, over there, and not one of them could say enough for the "Yanks." "Best fighters in the world," they say. "When they're not fighting the "hun" they fight among themselves." "The hotter it is, the better they like it," and all such as that. "No matter where he is, he is at home." And when an English Tommy gives a man credit, for doing something, "Well, just put it down in your note book." One "Aussie" told me that "once they were in a "bad hole" and, when they were just about on their last legs," these strangers "came to fill up their ranks, they were good fighter, and when the excitement died down, they (the Aussies)

had to pick a scrap with the new comers. Well, this fellow told me that it took just about three minutes for the strangers to "clean up" (and you know that the Australians, are no slackers), but as the strangers were Yanks, everything was explained.

Just cheer up, Essie, things are not as bad as you are making them. Occasionally I see a Boston paper and have seen quite a few names I recognized. One chap, Sgt. John Gramstorf, worked with me at the D.M. C.S. & W. Co. He's gone West, and he was as fine a fellow as I knew. If George is gone, well that is one more, I'll have to account for. I'm going to try and square up where these fellows have left off. If we ever get close enough.

Those "strangers", Essie, maybe lonesome. If you see a chap who looks lost, well, help him out. Remember, other strangers are helping lonesome Yanks out, over here, and things like that are appreciated.

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I'll have to close now, as all the other fellows are in bed, and the candle is all ready to go out, now, any minute. Have not told you anything I intended to when I started this letter, but it is too late now. Will write May tomorrow.

Love to all.

Dick.

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Soldier's Letter

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