My dear mother and father,

Well mother, I rec. your letter I think it was last night. Well I had a little good luck. Took pen back and told fellow I bought it of how it all happened and he said he could get it replaced free of charge for him and give me benefit of it by my being honest enough not to try and it appears as if it were fault of the pen. So he gave me a new one out and out not costing me a cent. I guess it does pay sometimes to be honest and so few soldiers are I guess he that I was an exception and more than treated me right.

Was to see Ethel last Sunday. I sure can have free time when I go to her house. I and the picture both arrived same morning only I got there an hour the sooner. Andie told Ethel she had better lock it up to his sister would just about steal it. She is a mighty nice girl I think. Seems more or less on shy order when I am around yet not bashfull by no means. Very much a lady. She seems to think me rather a "puzzle" as she calls it for she don't know how.
to take me and my Northern ways. She thinks I'm kidding her all the time. They are trying to teach me to dance. Am learning a little. Am very slow at it. Haven't nerve enough I guess. Well we use candles to write by now as I am in Signal Platoon of the Hq Co. 179 Inf. We have our tents all in a row and separate from the rest of Hq Co. So as yet we have no wiring done and therefore no electric light. I go to school every afternoon and am doing just rate I guess. Am able to see about 12 words a minute at 5 letters per word, but it keeps me humming to do it the and the fellows that have been operators are sure got it on me in this. I am ahead of those that have had no experience, but not far enough that I expect to get anything very good in this outfit. Well you see about our Captain, he is a Headquaters Co. in 5th Inf - Captain; and all was transferred over here to 3rd, Reg Co 179 Inf and the Hq Co, over here has about 290 men - 2 Captain; one is adjutant to the Colonel and highest ranking captain in Reg. And that is Capt. Freygers. And Captain Alexander is the captain that does all the field work and assigning of the positions and making up of all the different divisions of the New Hq Co. The other captain has enough office work to keep him busy enough we hardly
ever see him at all. So by that you see I am still under the same captain. I was with in the 11th 5th Reg. We have both been transferred over here. And that discharge was simply a transfer from State service to Federal Service. We can now be sent to any part of the world and here to fore we could not have been, and we had no choice or any possible chance of getting out of the army than that kind of a discharge. You see on one side we were discharged and on the other side we were drafted back so it did not noticeably effect us in any way.

As for any other chance for revenge any that I had in 5th Reg. there will be no much good luck again as long as I am in the service. It sure was worth taking the chance on but I had to lose with the rest of the 5th Reg fellows.

I will tell you now that these tickets are good only between Philadelphia & Lyons and from what I hear they are no good this now, so I dont suppose they will be of much service to you or anyone else now.

Well mother I am short on change this month and I bought a little trunk to keep my stuff.
in, so they would look respectable when I went any place. I have a padlock on it too. Padlock is very small, sure wish I had the one I used at Lyman his is much stronger.

Gee but I have an awfull cold now. Can hardly breathe then my nose at all.

I was reduced from band pay middle of last month and should have gotten $18 for the half of the month I was still in band and I only got $1.50. So you see what I am getting for all my hard work, get a reduction in pay and rank and don't even get what pay I should have coming to me. It is no wonder I want to get away from this Regt. If I only felt I was getting a fair deal it would not be quite so bad, but anyone can see this kind of treatment is unreasonable and a fellow can't do himself any good by kickin' or I sure would kick some. It certainly does not make a fellow feel like doing a bit more than he just has too when that is the reward for your hard work. Fellows that do the least around here have a way about them that they get the most. That is where I fall down by not being the miser some fellows are. Well I have written 4 pages and have an examination in morning on our school work I expect I had better go to bed.
We had rather lengthy inspection this morning and our exam was put off until this afternoon and it took an hour or so, and it is almost evening now. I don't know how I came out in the test but don't care a whole lot as I don't suppose I would be helped any by a good grade for I think those that are going to be promoted will get it no matter what the grade is, even if we were told the promotions would be based on our grades. I haven't any faith in these fellows over here at all. I was recommended for corporal and there is a fellow in this regiment that must come before me and many others I suppose will come before they give me anything just because I am from another regiment and I am not the only one for nearly all from the old 5th are getting about the same treatment. So I am not the only one who has room to complain only all the complaining I do is just in letters home to you.

I just now see a box of candy from Leah Longtruth - a sister of Earl Longtruth. I have been writing to her once in a while along.

Will I guess tomorrow will be spent in camp as I still feel sort of bummy and don't care about going out much and it seems like I
am spending a little too much money here lately anyway.

Well, I am going to send you some pictures of me in this letter. Seems like everybody wants one of each horse and prints are 1 cent each. So quite a bit of my money go in pictures. Even if it would have a camera if it were not so expensive. In a way they are worth the money for I have some pictures I would not take any thing for it seems too me. In the picture of one on the horse "side view of horse" with "heels" booklet and way I am sitting would pass as a officer. It is easy and look more like a real soldier than half the Lieutenants in this outfit. Was me busy about that time. Was working hardest of any time since I've been in the army.

Well my moustache is getting a little more pronounced now. Can be seen a little fuller but yet not enough to see in a picture. My picture now compared to the one taken last fall when I am with Maudie and Marie at the Spring up the railroad. There is all kinds of difference. I have the one I spoke of here with me and was looking at them both and just noting the difference in the expression on the face and general of person. I don't notice myself changing because it is very gradual yet when I think back there has been
a wonderful change in my disposition and I am not here to say if it is for better or for worse.

I don't believe I could be more cranky than I was at home. It makes me almost laugh now to think of some of the things I used to grouse and complain about when at home and think it awful and here put up with things 5 times worse and don't think of complaining at all. It really is as I said before, I do more complaining home to you in letters than don't here. I may think a great deal here but never say much. I hardly can think of how much mor it is at home than here for if I did I soon would be like a fellow over here in Co. wants to go home so bad he has nearly gone nuts. I have him in the hospital now I think, sure does not pay to get home sick in this business. And I don't think I will ever be in this line of work have so much to study and learn our minds are almost contiuously on the subject and very little time we have to brood over our "calamity" as some fellows express it - for instance the drafted men that are being shipped in here. Some have pretty swollen heads for they may be held a pretty well up position before coming in here and
want to be treated as much. Kind o' want to see
and you once in a while, but they are pretty much
of a disadvantage here for most of these fellows
down here.

Have seen a few years of army life down here and
fair fellows as this drafted bunch don't figure
much to them and they have a way of letting the
drafted fellows find it out very quick.

Well, I wrote Alan a letter some time ago, not very
long either and may send him a set of 4 picture
like these. If you think he would care enough
for them to really want them.

Fellows have all gone to bed so I guess I might
as well go myself pretty soon for if I don't
quit writing some time I am going to have
to send you this letter in a box instead of an
envelope. I am afraid you won't get a chance to read
this more than twice until time to write me again.

Well, I just noticed what you said about
Longtrench and the band. Longtrench wants
very much to get out of the band and come over
here with me in the Signal Platoon as he would
like it much better. Altho' at present he is staying
with the band, and I guess is doing very well.
He is not very much more in for the band
than I am. I sure have no business in one
when I have a chance at this line of work.

Altho' the fellows here in this band want
one to sit in with them and keep in practice and would be glad to get me in the band permanent if possible. But it is not possible, for I don't have any time what can to devote to that kind of work at all, only wish I had more time to learn about this. What I want to know.

The old fifth band still goes by that name and is now with the division of Machine gun battalion. They have a very uncertain job and have nothing to rely on as they are subject to be broken up at any time. Art Kellogg was over here yesterday morning and is going to get out of the army he tells me on account of rupture. I think, he said. He won't let them operate on him here in the army and they won't keep him like he is, so I guess he will get out. I would rather by far stay in the army than be one of Uncle Sam's discards. Yet they all say he is lucky getting out of this. I don't believe I would consider it such. I don't want out unless we all get out together and there was some talk of that being the case a few days ago, but hear nothing of it now.
I certainly was glad to hear about Cecil being interested in her work at Emerys. I knew it was the only thing for the girl to do, but it never did mean good to suggest it to Sir Raffe altho when I spoke to Cecil about it at one time she said she wished she could get out and do something like that. She just lacked experience and that is the most wonderful thing I get down here. I would not take anything for the experiences I have had since April 11, 1917. It sure changes a fellow in a way and yet I expect I am pretty much the same fellow I always was.

I am surprised at the amount of stuff I have written and the little amount of have really said. But news is scarce and a little devoted entirely to news would necessarily have to be short, but wind jamming does not need anything but plenty of paper. I am so glad of the pen full of ink and some body like me ahold of the pen and enough time to write and I have not in the last hour to quarter so much as stop to look up and the pen point is getting so bad I am afraid of taking temper out of it only I guess ink serve as a lubricant for it. Will so long for this time hoping to hear from you soon. I am yours lovingly, [Signature]