U.S.A.P.O 908

Amerforces

December 19, 1917

Dearest folks-

 Hurray-I just got my first letter since I left the ould homestead-that letter you wrote me in new york on October 31st. it surly did seem good to see my name all spelled out on the front of an evelope. But gosh it was about time. Here’s hoping they will in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ soon. Everybody else here has been getting letters and Christmas packages, making me feel rather lonely. Cone on you mail.

 The weather here has become quite cold, which of course adds to the hardship of getting up mornings, which was hardship enough before. From all indications we will work all day Christmas, a rather unpleaseant prospect. I should like to have one day for rest and recreation. But then, this is war (apparently).

 I wish I could describe this town to you-but it is unfortunately toabooed information. The place is very quaint and quite ancient-with a sort of halo, frostbitten by war. Ill tell you later.

 Christmas only a few days off! I can see the eyes in all of the \_\_\_\_ and stores-do your Christmas shopping early” I hope you got the little bit I sent, and managed to make it go round. I would much rather be there myself.

 I suppose Page is grown to be a big and mighty branch of the old tree by now. I know Heah is back in her complete good health. Have they moved to green bay yet?

 These French people are a peculiar gange in many ways. When there are four of them get started talking at once there is a worse bubble than at the Lincoln Park bird house. The yare very \_\_\_\_\_\_. Al the place where we ate dinner last night there were two old Frenchmen about sixty apiece-who wrote notes to each other all during the meal about everybody in the dinning room. I was laughing so hard I couldn’t eat.

 Everybody shakes hands everytime they see each other-morning, noon and night, at all house and all places, great custom!

 We just had some \_\_\_\_\_\_ every evening as we are finishing up work we start in, and believe it surly listen good. Also, we purchased cheap mandaline tho we don’t have much time for playing it. But then it’s a comfortable thing to have around.

 Christmas eve we are all going to attend the midnight mass at the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ old cathedral-then go home and fill up our stockings.

 I am sort of secretary to the commanding officer here-and this is all of the bigger \_\_\_\_\_\_ in France-so I hope to get a chance to get something better in the way of a transfer of commission before many months.

 It is now time to eat. How I hate to eat-as ever please accept my \_\_\_\_ love again for all-

 Most affectionately

 Melvin

And please write again, sending along the Tribune once in a while.