Thursday

November 22nd

Dearest Folks,

At last I find that I can write a letter telling where I am and how I got here. Undoubtedly such a letter will prove a wee bit more interesting than the more deceptive variety you have received before. I shall therefore proceed to use both sides of this \_\_\_ paper-evidently built for small mouthed persons.

We saild on the S.S. Kroonland, a very comfortable ship, and landed fist on Halifay, from where I wrote you my first letter. We stayed there a few days and then sailed for Liverpool, where we arrived Monday, the nineteenth. We went ashore Thursday evening and I called you from the Adelphi Hotel. A great contrast was apparent between the exceedingly agreeable and up-tp-date hotel and the muddy city. The hotel mountain club rooms for American officers, equipped with American newspapers, magazines, and an American bar, of which I was of course a silent bystander.

Tuesday night be left on a special train for south Hampton, and I achieved my first \_\_\_ view of real England early the next morning. The dawn had arrived shortly before I awakened, and the gree field were moist with dew. The landscape here is really beautiful! Beautiful trees, meadows, shows everyone artistic and in engaged in groups of tress and shrubs, and own from run-down jam shacked wooden fences replanced with green hedges and shrubs. I wanted to get out and walk-just walk. The road are all delightful and artistic- picturesque and and winding, bordered by lines of trees or shrub hedges.

Yesterday moving we reached south Hampton. This hotel is very nice-an unusually large and brilliant room for four shilling (one dollar)-a great contrast to America. We affected to sail across the channel to France. Today, but exept to get our definite orders tomorrow. I could have enjoyed yesterday and today a great deal better than I did. Yesterday afternoon we took a fifteen mile bicycle ride out through the country, reaching in our journey a great forest built by William the conqueror. England’s \_\_\_\_ king. Today we enjoyed a long walk out on the road to London. We are only seventy miles from the metropolis of the world but that is the only place we are really allowed to go. However I called up gary farsgtne, one of the boys from the Fraternity at school when I helped to pledge and whose home is outside of london, and just finished talking to him. He is resting up after several aeroplane falls.

Tomorrow morning we have to arise early and visit Winchester, considered the oldest city in England and one of the oldest in the world. In contains among after places of historic interest the largerst catherdral in the world.

I surely am enjoying every minute of my trip- for indeed so far it has been nothing but an immense pleasure tour. We have at last realized the existence of the war, however by the large number of \_\_\_ and recuperating soldiers to be seen on the street. Yes there is a war, and it is hell on wrath. I am more than ever glad for the opportunity to come over now, and am very anxious to get into france, which event will happen very shortly. I do not know where I shall be stationed, but I expect to get to Paris first. I will not be permitted to say where I am latter, when I get there. It will be the usual somewhere in France. We have received execellent treatment thus, and I feel sure of a good assignment to an active staff where I shall have opportunity to show what I can do. I am thankful that I have considered an officer and feel certain the actual commissions will follow.

The people of England are very cordial. Every says sir at all times, and I rather like their speech-but in France I believe the American is liked really better.

France for clothing and most things and cheaper here than home with the exception of certain kinds of food. Surgan and wheat are there most noticeably lacking-and are most eat only so much of certain foods, and only after certain hours. We are restricted at the Rotel in the amount we can spend for food and lodging. Outside of that and the lights darkened and blinded or shades all drawn at night, things seem quite customary.

If I am to write any more letters tonight and get up early to go to Winchester I must cease.

Please give my love to everyone and keep a greater deal for yourselves. How are Leah and the babe?

With greatest apprecitions,

Melvin,

A.F.D.

American expeditionary Frances.

P.S. The we applies to myself and Roche, the other A.F.C. with me. He is very generous hearted and good company usually, tho’ he is rather crude at times and seems unable to shake off the earments of private.