



SOUTH WESTERN HOTEL,  
SOUTHAMPTON.

Thursday  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>

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 ~~we~~ bit more interesting than the non descript variety you have received before. I shall therefore proceed to use both sides of this petit paper — evidently built for small mouthed persons.

We sailed on the S.S. Kroonland, a very comfortable ship, and landed first at Halifax, 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 Tuesday morning  
and I cabled you from the  
A delphi Hotel, a great contrast  
was apparent between the exceedingly  
agreeable and up-to-date hotel and  
the muddy city. The hotel  
maintains 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 we left on a  
special train for Southampton,  
and I achieved my first  
honest view of real Ireland



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early the next morning. The  
dawn had arrived shortly  
before I awakened, and the  
green fields were moist with dew.  
The landscape here is really  
beautiful! Beautiful trees, meadows,  
houses everyone artistic and  
cruggled in groups of trees and  
shrubs, and our run-down  
ran shackled wooden fences replaced  
with green hedges and shrubs.  
I wanted to get out and walk  
- just walk. The roads are  
all delightful and artistic -  
picturesque and winding, bordered

by lanes of trees or shrub  
hedges.

Yesterday morning we reached  
Southampton. This hotel is  
very nice - an unusually large  
and excellent room for four  
shillings (one dollar) - a great  
contrast to America. We  
expected to sail across the  
channel to France today, but  
expect to get our definite orders

tomorrow. I couldn't 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

TELEGRAMS:- WELCOME, SOUTHAMPTON.  
TELEPHONE:- MANAGER N°7 SOUTHAMPTON.  
VISITORS N°1247 (2 LINES)

**SOUTH WESTERN HOTEL,  
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in our journey a great  
forest built by William the  
Conqueror, England's primal king.  
Today we enjoyed a long walk  
out on the road to London.  
We are only seventy miles from  
the great metropolis of the  
world but that is the only  
place we are not allowed to go.  
However I called up Gerry  
Forsythe, one of the boys from  
the Fraternity at school whom I  
helped to pledge and whose name  
is outside of London and just  
finished talking to him. He

is resting up after several  
aeroplane falls.

Tomorrow morning we expect  
to arise early and visit  
Winchester, considered the  
oldest city in England and one of  
the oldest in the world. It  
contains among other places of  
historic interest the largest  
cathedral in the world.

I surely am enjoying every  
minute of my trip — for  
indeed ~~it~~ 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 cripples and



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recuperating soldiers to be seen  
on the streets. Yes there is a  
war, and it is hell on  
earth. 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 either, when I  
do get there. It will be the

usual somewhere in France x We  
have received excellent treatment  
thus far, 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 am considered an  
officer, and feel certain the  
actual commissions will follow.

The people of England are very  
orbital, everyone says so  
at all times, and I rather  
like their speech — but in  
France I believe the American  
is liked really better.

Prices for clothing and most  
things are cheaper here than  
home — with the exception of





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certain kinds of food. Sugar  
and wheat are the most  
noticeably lacking - and one  
must eat only so much of

certain foods, and only  
after certain hours. The  
are restricted at the hotel in  
the amount we can spend for  
food and lodging. Outside of  
that and the lights darkened  
and blinds 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 close.

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

With greatest affection

Edwin

A.F.C.

American Expeditionary Forces.

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 earmarks  
of private.