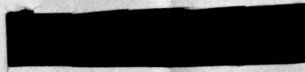


PANAMA PACIFIC LINE



My dear Folks -

For the last several hours I have been trying to realize that I am now in the most dangerous part of the submarine zone — but no use, I might just as well be in Chicago or Madison. This is going to be another one of those camouflaged letters — mostly camouflage. We sighted land this morning — I can't say what — but I was so glad to see it I could have kissed a mad pie. I shall undoubtedly climb the first land post I get near — after we get in (also I can't say where).

PANAMA PACIFIC LINE



Yesterday morning we sighted our  
destroyers, and now we have ~~of them~~  
hovering around our Convoy.

Also I have the hiccoughs, these  
strange fads affect me in peculiar ways.  
The first thing I do when I get a  
chance is go to a gymnasium or Turkish  
bath and get a good workout. This  
all eating and no work or exercise makes  
James a fat lad. I am enclosing a  
days menu, which is only typical,  
certainly not exaggerated. You might be

PANAMA PACIFIC LINE



interested in knowing how they are  
starving me. But do you know what

I was longing for all the time? Some  
of your nice crowned par wdst, mashed  
potatoes + delicious gravy and spaghetti.

Honest — I even dreamed about them.

There are a bunch of aviators on board —  
fine men — but I suppose I dare not  
say anything about them.

I don't know when this letter will  
reach you, but I expect to cable my  
safe arrival at the first opportunity. I  
will come to you from Governor's Island

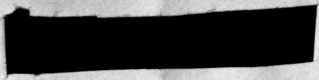
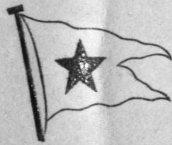
PANAMA PACIFIC LINE



New York \*

tomorrow morning. I believe we land-  
on joy. I shall caress the trees,  
anything stationary in fact. The trip however  
has been very enjoyable. We have had  
excellent weather, and I have not been  
sea sick — but oh how glad I will  
be to get on good & lonely mother Earth.  
We have been on board now for sixteen days.  
Don't be afraid that I won't write as  
often as I get the opportunity. I  
shall be glad when I can be a little  
sure of what I can say.

PANAMA PACIFIC LINE



Give my love to everybody, including the  
latest to arrive, Has he forgotten all  
about me yet?

Affectionately, with love,

Melvin

Army Field Clerk  
American Expeditionary Forces

The victrola has been playing swell melodies  
as I have been writing, I can almost  
imagine myself home — almost :-