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Sunday Nov 4th 1917
22 Base Hosp.
BEF

Dearest Pa:—

I shant be able to make this very long as I have been put in charge of the D lines – accommodations for 970 odd pts — which means I see the walking medical cases the day of or after entrance and the bad weather and the fearful physical conditions in Flandrs has meant many large convoys and a lot of work.

Elinor goes to — tomorrow. It's a great disappointment, but of course I can get down to see her every week or so if work is moderately light and thus its not completely missing her. I am within easy distance of her if anything happens.

Imagine the foothills at home reversed so that they face westward and toward the Atlantic Ocean instead of toward

rolling plains and you have to a ~~certain~~ remarkable extent the situation here — with the counterpart of the ~~Rio~~ Denver and Rio Grande running north and South — the Chemin de Fer du Nord. We are encamped — really a vast colony in tents and light huts all along a splendid road down which the Red ✠ lorries run day and night — some labled "Gift of the City of Jaipur" or "The Citizens Committee of ~~Jaipur~~ Trinidad" — etc.

The chances of seeing new people and new ways of doing things are fairly good here. The Mess contains a very attractive bunch of men apparently and though many of the men would be glad of the chance to transfer to USA. jobs the likelihood is not great

that this will take place.

I live in a Bell tent — much like Dr. Gardiners variety — out at the corner of the lot of officers tents. It is conducive to brisk dressing and undressing and keeps me in at the mess during the evening, for squalls and sends come hurrying in from the Atlantic — at times we hear the roar on the beach — and it is cold practically i.e. the result is cold hands and feet. I do not regret buying good clothes in England and plenty of warm clothes for the winter. Before the frigid weather starts I trust I shall be in a chicken house which is warm enough to live in during the worst of it. Beatrice is the name of the oil stove Elinor gave me and if it weren't for her I'd have been been pretty cool already.

I had a bully time in London with the Merrills — no raids I was sorry to miss them — but in every other way most agreeable. The trip & across the channel was easy, and made diverting by the aeroplanes and ships of all kinds that convoyed us. It was very interesting — and on arriving I had dinner c̄ a young Canadian officer who told me much about the lines.

My work thus far has been hurried and very much in the rough. Otherwise nothing to report at present — and I'll write next Sunday.

I am very much worried lest Mrs. Bemis's illness prove serious — I certainly hope it won't.

Lovingly

Alan.