

U. S. S. Plattsburg, %Postmaster

New York City, Dec. 17, 1918.

Dear Folks;

Have just returned from Paris where I sent a few cards. Found that the ship had left Southampton Eng. and had moved down and anchored off Cowes I. W. a little town in nothern part off Isle of Wight. The little Island is about the size of Edgecomb or Martin county, I should say. There are some few points of interest here for the place has been used for many years by the Royalty or Nobility etc to spend a few weeks in the summer. It is still a very popular summer resort, but it is rather quite in winter. We are waiting for the propellor blade to come from New York and to have the necessary repairs done. We will leave for some dry dock in about a week, either at Portsmouth or Chatam. So it looks as if we wont even sail for two weeks yet.

We are looking for a very dull Christmas for altho the people do their best to offer all sorts of entertainment it is not like that of the States. We will have five or six weeks in the States for a general overhaul and I understand that our stay here will not affect the stay there.

My trip to Paris was most successful, a trip to Paris any time would be so - but Paris today with its war relico and air raids results surpass all words of discription. The big gun shooting over 70 miles left its marks of destruction and blood stains in the floors of churches even. Many, many bombs dropped from airplanes show what the frightful Huns are capable of doing.

Much beyond any antcipation of mine when I left England I found that I could steal into the war zone. So by a few manipulations we managed to pass all our guards (by telling them "sob stories") and went to Chateau-Theierry for one whole day. You will remember it was here on the Marne that the Huns, this very year, made their last desperate effort to reach Paris, and even the selected Prussian guards were thrown back in confusion by our Marines (soldier-sailors) and three divisions of our army, much to the grateful astonishment of

the French.

We covered the whole sector including Balleau Woods by a U. S. Army "Ford" and I collected several interesting relics which I will send home for safekeeping when I reach the States. I will write a more detailed account later. For the present goodbye and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

J. C. T.