

[1918?]

Sunday 12. In -

My dear Richard,

You can see by the time that I did not go to church, and I must confess that I have not been since some time in April - And it has been on account of the war too, for the servant property has been and still is a very serious one - We have not had one since last year and you can imagine how my time is taken up -

we had two fake excitements and
such dummies - Well every body is busy
with Christmas boxes, war stamps etc -
I really feel but not making surgical
dressings - Our Red Cross Chapter has
done wonders in that line, but thank
God the need for that line of
work is over - We are constantly aware
of the wounded for we have had
too many to come here and you
see them on the streets - I don't
think a night passed that I
did not search the list published

It is very dear of you to
think of me when you are
going through so much and
seeing so much. I had a
postal from you in September
which I did acknowledge and
to have acknowledged, but
you see I am doing better
this time. Your last was
received on Wednesday, and
I see it is dated Nov-4
so that was before the sign-
ing of the armistice. It was
in New York when that news
reached this country - Prior
to the arrival of that news

in the N. Y. Times to see but from
North Carolina & Virginia, ^{so} you see you
are in ^{my} my thoughts often - I have your
picture on my mantle and my prayer
has been that nothing would happen
to that splendid body of yours -
I did not have any other fears
about you for I feel I know you well
enough to know that everything else
is no sight -

I suppose you will be thinking
about coming home now, but I guess
it will be some time before you

cross the pond -
Hunter collected as the
navy ranking as 2nd class
sea man - but he went in
the Naval Intelligence Depart-
ment - they could not have
gotten a better one for of
all claim-matched paper
he takes the lead - He has
seen worn his uniform - did
dress up in it one night -
for our benefit - We have a
young man living with us,
and has expected to go to
Camp Lee on the 13th of
November to the O. I. C.
but owing to the event on

enjoy this war!" The Army man said
he certainly passed that it was too
good to strike out -

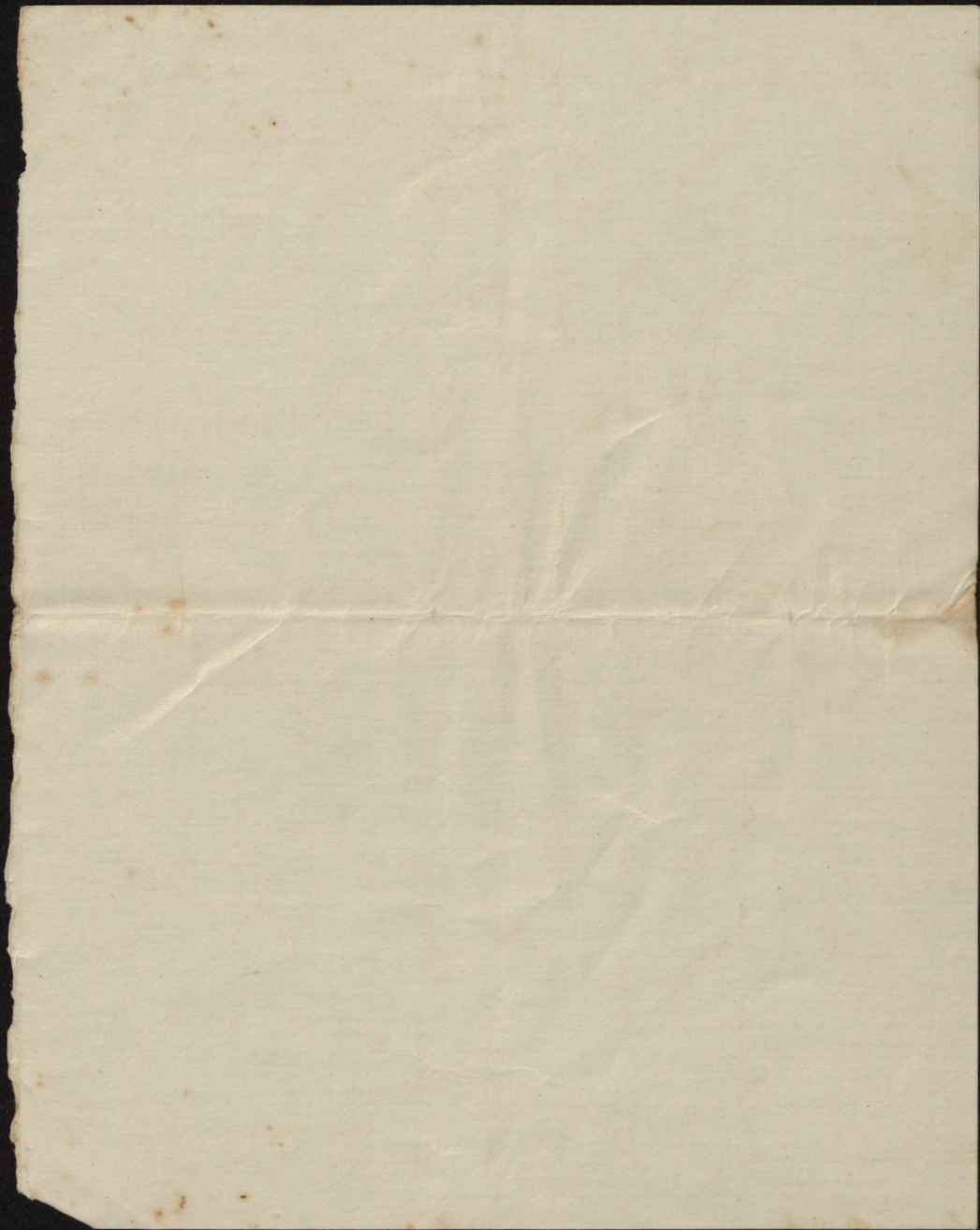
I saw by the paper some time during
the summer that your father was at
the Sarah Seiff Hospital, and in
the Edenton notes that Mary had gone
to Rays' Head for a visit. I was glad
to see it for I know what a little
respite for an invalid means.

My cousin is very joyful. She
has failed very much mentally - Her
physical health is pretty good

Nov 11. he did not have
to go - The camps all over
the country are being dismissed
and the men are returning.
Speaking of writing letters
and their ~~return~~ censorship.
I heard a good one the
other day - A naval officer
whom I know was censoring
the letters on his destroyer
and he came across one
written by one of the sailors
to his wife in which he
said - "For God's sake
stop trying to boss me 3000
miles away and let me

but his memory is something frightful
It's wasted away but he has an enormous
appetite which is a sign of mental decay.
I know you must think in a great prom-
ise, but the worst for those socks of
yours has never been out of the paper -
I found that they would not allow
things to be sent on owing to space
so you must take the mill for the
deed.

The hands of the clock are getting
towards dinner and as I have to go
am to prepare it will stop this
awful letter which I hope you can
read - May you have a pleasant



Christmas wishes go my to
Hoping to see you some of
these days and hear first
hand some of your ex-
periences - Believe me

Always affectionately

Ely S. Bell

[Norfolk, Va.]