

Base Hospital #12

U.S. Army

LONDON W

On active service

2. 15 AM

4 JUN 1917



+  
Mrs Alex P Maitland

Reganue

Mich

U.S.A.

W  
M  
G



on Board SS Mongolia  
Aberq.

May 30, 1917.

My dear Heartland Family:

A year ago today I was leaving England for France, as an officer in the English army. Today I am gradually approaching England more or less as a U.S. Officer - sort of a soldier of fortune after all without stability but with a few good friends scattered over the earth. We have had a smooth voyage, no accidents since ~~the cruise over, I wrote you about~~ ~~the~~ ~~fire~~ ~~drill~~ ~~subsequent~~ ~~to~~ ~~that~~ ~~accident~~ ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~had~~ ~~every~~ ~~one~~ ~~go~~ ~~below~~. With boat drill, military drill, eating, concerts by the boys and games or walks on deck the days fly by. Everyone is tanned & sunburned. My chin is blistered and my uniform wrinkled beyond recall. In the last 2 days I have had a cold but feel better today. As our unit with a small batch of detached officers (medical) are the only passengers we are really a transport and all have the freedom of the boat except the enlisted men who can only come up on the forward deck when invited. They are fine fellows and look wonderfully well with their uniforms and equipment. We officers have been furnished with side arms & belts and look quite war like with the Colt 45's - some gun.

Your Soldier Boy Kellogg & Speer