

C.C.S., 12, B.E.F.

Belgium

S. S. MONGOLIA

Oct 2, 1917.

My dear Mrs. Maitland:

Your letter of Sept 9 here. good times.  
Also today from the base came the wonderful  
up reading material and already I am  
enthusiastic. Thanks very much for your  
interest. Will report progress - up here  
have little time to study any, no light  
at night except here in the operating theater  
where I am now writing. It is a blaze  
of intense white Mazda light - but  
25 feet away from the building you  
would never know there was any light.  
So much for camouflage!

Have forwarded you a copy of the  
Flyer Return - do you like it? Read  
it twice and try to imagine yourself  
watching these fellows come home -  
wish I could fitly write it up. Will  
try to send y or some others - at the base.

My plans carry me, (under orders) to  
the base about the 10<sup>th</sup>. Will be sorry to

leave and yet glad to get back "home"  
- think of it why home is a tent - nothing  
down earth and only mother to wish  
me in Chicago what a h - of a  
life!

Was very sorry to hear of Mr. Wainland's  
accident - know he is good enough sport  
to belittle what might have been very  
serious. Take good care of him - and  
the Kiddies. I enjoyed the photographs  
- they look like real people in gods  
country - how snug & safe and happy  
you are. For 6 weeks I have been living  
under fire but am still safe.  
Oct 3 next morning -

Had to stop to go on operating last night  
& was fagged when finished. It is cool  
today - fall is coming.

Now noon - your letter of Sept 12 just  
came enclosing the one from Mrs. Paddock.  
Thanks for your kind thoughts of father  
and your intention to write to me then. She  
will appreciate it I know, as much as  
I do. The letter from Mrs P I will des-  
troy. I have written them one letter but  
will try to get off another sometimes

although I am deluged with official, legal and other correspondence - about 30 letters behind now.

Your letters are greatly appreciated - also your deep friendly interest. The fact you kindly name Peter is largely that inherited from father - the most kindly man you can imagine. Sent forward another poetic effusion by me - "The Flycatcher's Return" - it may or may not reach you - have written about it before.

A second long letter came from my sister today giving details of the funeral and burial in Cleveland. It seems very hard to do one's duty and know it was distressing father all the time. Cables and many letters today. One from my old house-mate - Frank Burns tells of his commission as Major in the Forestry Reg. - he is coming over - to saw timber his chosen occupation and says he hopes to saw some planks for the Kaiser's coffin - hope he does.

All the packages and things you send me arrive very promptly - you are too good - can never repay - but if it is any help please know the depth of my appreciation and the loyal friendship you have awakened.

No bright eyes here - at the base is one pair and I hope they will come home with me - when you shall judge for yourself. Touchstone is some picker and the crew has been arguing and arguing with the major & the doctor - Peter trying to keep peace and act as judge advocate. Arguments are about all in and decision will soon be reached. That does not affect Audrey in any way - what is, is and always will be. Thanks again, think of me away off here when I feel that mother needs me as never before - my sister says she has aged markedly and talks of me all the time she is not talking of father. I hope you truly appreciate your happiness and peace so far off there yours  
Kellogg & Mrs