

18 quai Hospital B.C.F.  
APOS 18 France

Dec 16, 1917.

My dear Mrs. Maillard:

Your of Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> came last night after quite a lapse. Was it anniversary time? - how the calendar flies, even soldiering! I am very glad you think of me - we out here need to be thought of once in awhile. Today comes our first snow and the wind is pretty keen so that the grand sweater and those woolen socks are doing their bit on me right at this moment. Do you ever shiver with the snow flying, in a sleeveless sweater, coat

off, a damp tent encompassing  
you with flaps wide open  
blot in enough light? That's  
me each day now because I  
am up again. When I say  
again - don't be shocked. On  
Thanksgiving an abscess started  
suddenly about my left knee.  
Superficial & indolent, - but  
somewhat & very painful  
so that I had to take to bed.  
Within 3 days I was on  
the operating table again  
and had my knee cauterized  
so that there have followed

ten or twelve days of painful bed riding  
- up for the first time yesterday. Cant go  
south now for a week (or 10 days, probab-  
ly just after Christmas as both knee  
& hand are now in bandage - and  
I limp about with a cane.

I read much lately, Galsworthy  
- Green Fancy - Several of Kipling,  
Uncle Sam ~~House~~ Leave. Vanity  
Fair, Smart Set & loads of other  
things - besides French slip  
reading - Then too I have had  
such a nice night sister - a Scotch  
girl - some girl who has done  
about every thing to get me well and  
make me comfortable. Margaret  
has just gone over to have tea with  
her - I cant go to the sisters mes  
because I am still a patient in  
no 20. - her hospital. Thank to  
the splendid sleeping bag you gave  
me I was able to give to sister

(you know all nurses over  
here are called "sisters") another  
not so good bag that Mrs.  
Whitman Reed gave us on  
behalf of the Red + Soc  
in London. I offered it to  
Margaret but she most  
unanimously said she  
wanted sister to have it  
because although her own  
was a poor one she could  
have blankets & sister had  
only 1 blanket.

You see how we look  
out for each other. The

Spirit of sacrifice, of help the other fellow  
and all good feelings must get even  
to the worst bunches.

Most of our officers are building  
Huts for themselves - light wooden things  
lined outside with paper - old tin or  
what not. The lumber costs a great  
deal - but they simply have to get a  
little comfort - have you ever lived in  
a wet tent in winter. It's awful.  
A canvas always but has fallen to  
my lot - canvas on pine - but I am  
still in the hospital of course and  
until I return am letting two  
officers use it, storing my stuff  
in my tent still - which is now  
moved into the tennis court to  
permit building for the other  
fellows. They have to do the carpentering  
themselves. Can you imagine a  
bunch of medical officers building

houses - they do well.

Thanks for your thoughts about Christmas boxes for me - you have done too many things for me. My Kiddies I shall miss very much - Bertha has taken to writing sweet letters and is really liking her Daddy I believe. When we get back you must come to Chi - & visit and we will get all the Kiddies together. Bertha has sent me a Christmas box

which has not yet arrived.

I hope my little Christmas gift to you got through <sup>Safely</sup>  
no duty is payable on  
gifts from Soldiers in France.

The war is young - don't forget that - hope our punch will do some good soon. We fully expect to be reclaimed into U.S. service entirely next May which means movement of June. Can't say any more than that. The Russian situation looks hopeless from our side. - My hand -

does very well - but functional use  
is weeks away. By April or  
May I can operate I suppose.  
That will let me into some real  
work.

Fishes accepted the Flyers Return  
Down South I'll try to get some  
sort of a story started -

"With the Van" - is my title  
don't steal it or give it away!

You are doing a wonderful work  
- don't overdo - don't neglect that  
happy family and save some  
of your energy for those of us  
who come back some day  
Love to all the Maitland family  
Kellogg & Spud.