

18 journal to report  
B.E.F.

May 1, 1918

My dear Mrs Waitland:

Time seems to drag along -  
and the war hangs on and even  
grows nearer. However the news of  
your letter tells me of all sorts of  
changes at home and perhaps  
you get more than we do after all.  
For 5 days I have been lazy  
- just loafing eating and -  
you would never guess packing.  
Of course you have guessed it -  
the war is not ended but your  
bumble friend has crept into notice  
somehow and last Saturday  
orders came from genl. Pershing

for me to report to the general com-  
manding the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division A.E.F.  
That means quite a journey - the  
first stop being Paris which  
is now many hours away.

The arrival of my orders was  
so to speak, some surprise to  
certain people. I had reason  
to expect them since I heard  
from etc in January - now  
I know it is true. Just what  
my job will be I know not - but  
surely a betterment and a dignified  
relief from this. A year's service  
here is all that I needed to give.  
Margaret has to stay on here if  
I come. It may be that I can  
send for her later from my

new post, but I doubt it. I am urging him to go to England this summer - where we had planned our next leave - and to stay on there with my relatives. I don't believe the people here could do anything about it. After the war we could meet and go home together. No definite plans yet.

Many of the enlisted men have asked to go with me - some as servant or any old thing - and some of the doctors would also - My orders cover only myself - so I am free to go alone - with all my baggage - the best part of which is my good old sleeping bag. It has been on many jaunts.

My division is now in active service dropping bullets and shells and I may manage to collect a souvenir. In June I am going to put 2 service stripes on my tunic - we get one for each 6 mos service here at the front. They are gold chevrons on the left arm - on the right arm the same chevron means a wound. Don't scold me - I am very busy getting away. address -  
Headquarters 42nd Division  
A.E.F. France U.S.