

Headquarters
42nd Division A.C.F.
France
May 10, 1918.

My dear Mrs Maitland:

After arriving here yesterday I am able to report that I am in a billet - I have an upstairs bed room in a 4 room house in a block with many others built closely together. The best part of this room is that it has a floor, 4 walls & a ceiling and is dry. Also a nice French window looks out onto a garden about the size of your library rug and across a narrow alley to another row of buildings just like this one - But I am a happier

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man. Am away from the
unshakeable association I had
- with honour and dignity. My
order to move came from the highest
authority and had no origin
in my request of mine nor
had my associates anything
to do with it. I really think
they thought I would squeal
when I knew I would have to
leave Margaret - but we both
were glad of it. Married life
living apart in an army
camp is not just the greatest
joy on earth and this oppor-
tunity seemed providential.

The night I left 15 of my
junior officers gave me a
grand dinner as I wrote you.
It was some affair and

made me feel that they would miss me. I did not even see your friends majors B and M to say good-bye.

When I get settled here - if I am to remain stationary - will resume my intense study of French - at least as long as I am fortunate enough to be at it.

My work in the west, my experience in Belgium, my trip to Paris & the south have added to this location put me pretty well all over France. About the only remaining experience will be to be made prisoner & to welter in a German prison. Lets be spared that!

In June I hope to go down
to Paris to a meeting. Have
written my old pal Major
Joe Davis who is not far from
me to ask him if he can go
down with me. We can
have two days there. In July
if all goes well I hope to
get leave again and possibly
I can meet Marguerite - "somewhere
in France"

I have a nice landlady -
Her husband & 2 small children
live here - 2 older boys are
in the French army! Last
night she cooked dinner
for me - beef steak! fried potato
es, lettuce salad and figs.
I furnished my own tea
made out of my own tea ball

and as B & T would say
a pleasant time was had.
What was the bill? I don't
know yet - and not knowing
I can't say.

Bertha writes me quite re-
gularly. She is growing tall
and tells me she is already
up to her mother's eyes - she
will be quite tall I think.

are your kiddies out of
school yet? After the war we
are all going to have a vacation
some where together. Margaret
is interesting and I shall be
much disappointed if the girls
do not take to her. I am sure
Alexander Jr will!

where are the Paddocks? Has
Mrs P still continued writing

short stories? ⁶

Here in Red + work I find
new ton Perry of Chicago - talk
Forest. He is very nice to me
had me over for lunch at his
mess. As I am not settled
any where I am not in a
mess - except my own "mess".
Hence I eat when & where I
please. Wish I had madame
I right here with me to keep
house and do the cooking
- and washing. Do you sup-
pose she would do it for a change
to hear Touchstone crack,
puns and kid around?

This paper is called ruin
skin. I am hoping it does not
get me in bad odour with you.
Kindest regard,
Kellogg Speed