

18 (Chicago 459) Gene Hooper
B E F France
A P O S I S

My dear Mrs Mailland:

Last night came the Knitted sweater. Used to say that it is sticking close to me - because it is cold and I am wearing all the beanes I can pile on. It fits D a - T. and will be excellent for wearing in the peaking theater. Yesterday I had an h. of. headache but feel better today having done better work and sat around close to the fire.

This morning I saw some clippings from material sent to the Red Cross Magazine by Mrs Bealey. This is the most sickening stuff I ever saw and I hope you are able to take some steps to counteract it. No one here in the office or sister's quarters has ever been terribly worried - nor has the stress been anything like it has been before in the war - not one third as much as I had last year - not one tenth as fierce as it is at the charity stations. We understand that everyone has been solicited to contribute to a Christmas dinner for them - that will all go to the ^{selected} men who are better fed than we are working of that kind ever come to the office. It looks like a game that B was playing to jolly up these boys & get business from them when back at home. The stories of greatly exaggerated long hours of work exhaustion etc are pure lies and should be branded as such. What I write

you is for your information ^{not for printing} - such lies hurt the service. I saw in statement that that the hospital received 15000 wounded Aug 1 to Aug 4 - that is more wounded than the whole British army had in the month nearly. Think of such lies

As one officer said about Bo's actions, lies, stories & attempts to gobble every thing - "I wonder if he thinks none of us are going to live to go back home". If I do nothing else I'm going to

swing my pen on this stuff sometime.

No letters from you for a long time the mind seems paralyzed. Never have yet heard from my mother and only 2 letters from my sister.

am cold & not feeling very cheery - hope this finds you warm and comfy. The wet tent life & camp & cold does not seem to agree with me and the so called process of hardening is a fallacy.

Have just forwarded to Chicago via the Surgeon General's office - "A contribution to the immediate Surgery of gunshot wounds of the Cranium" - based on 40 Recent Craniotomies performed within a few hours after the reception of wounds. Does that sound formidable & serious enough? Kindest regards Kellogg & Speed