

George A. Shisholm to Alice

France, 28 October 1918.

Autograph Letter Signed. 7 pages.

October 28, 1918

Somewhere in France

Dear Alice,

It sure has been a long time since I have heard from you as I haven't received a letter from anyone since I left Ft. Meyer on September 31st.

I am still as happy as ever and also still retain my good health, the last couple of days were the only one that I have seen any sunshine to speak of since I left the states.

I suppose by this time you have received the card I sent you and this has been my first opportunity of writing you a letter, of course I had to write my other first so now I will try and get a few lines to you.

[2] We have been on the move almost continually since leaving the good old U.S.A. and last night I was certainly pretty tired as I rode about eighteen hours in a box car with full packs on our backs.

The building in England are all two story brick affairs but in France they have some that are three and even four stories high but none of them are frame, I haven't seen a frame house since landing on this side.

I had a real fine trip coming across even counting the two days that I was seasick you should have seen me dig in to the eats after I got better but it isn't any wonder as all I ate during those two days [3] was one box of soda crackers.

When we landed in England we were greeted all along the road with cheers and in nearly every other house there was an American Flag flying, the kiddies all followed right along asking us if we had any cents and upon arriving in France we found that all the kiddies can say in English is "give me a penny."

Everything in England costs about twice as much as it did at home-cigarettes, 16 for 45¢, cookies that were unsweetened 16 for a shilling, candy, impossible to buy as there was none to

be had, but now it is different, tobacco and cigarettes are much cheaper here than in the states and we can buy cars of chocolate candy.

[4] There is no use in sending me anything or rather trying to as we are only allowed to receive one package for Christmas and if you would attempt it, they would probably return it to you, my address is Private George A. Shisholm 29th Engineers Replacement, American E.F. – I suppose you have written me more than once but as yet I haven't caught up to the mail or then it hasn't caught up to me – I don't know which is right.

Gee, it sure will be great when I get back and able to make a little trip to Avalon then I'll be able to tell you a lot more than I can write to you, but one thing I can say is, that the American Girls don't need to worry about their fellows that are over here [5] as all the girls I have seen wouldn't tempt me in the least, they don't even come near comparing with our own sweet American Girls.

I hardly think that you would know me now if you could see me, I had my hair clipped short before leaving the states and am now raising a mustache just for the fun of the thing but I don't think that it will be much of a success so I am going to shave it off tomorrow.

Have you heard from Syril lately? I have been expecting to run into some of the fellows that I know but as yet I haven't even heard of their outfit being [6] around any place.

Do you know that my birthday is Wednesday the 30th – the first time I have ever been away from home on that date and I certainly wish that I could be home this year so I could collect a few nice birthday presents such as a kiss for every year. Do you know how many that would mean?

Well girlie I am running out of gas and besides I am getting sleepy a it is about 9 o'clock so if you will give me you permission I will say bye bye for this time and get some much needed sleep as I have been up since about 6 am so as they say here in Sunny France – Au Revoir.

[7] I will close remaining always,

Your best friend

Geo. A. Shisholm

P.S. If I can find a suitable souvineer [sic] will surely send it to you.

Geo.