

France  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dear Folk at Home;

I don't know how long it is since I wrote last, not long I think but I received a couple of letters yesterday Apr. 17 & 24 so thought I would write a little letter today, it is Mabel's birthday too I think.

Well it is a lovely day, has been lovely weather for the past week and we are having somewhat of a picnic camping out, that is if you look at it that way. Our barn seemed to feed a sort of epidemic, several of the boys were sick & one fellow they thought had diphtheria, he is gone down the line, so we are moved outside in a tarpaulin. It is much better for the warm weather. I was helping putting up the tarpaulin and one of the fellows threw back the axe and the back corner of the axe caught me just above the eye. I got rather a bad gash, had to be inoculated but it is not sore and I will likely go up the line tonight.



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The boxes are not coming very good this time. There has only the one came to my address in France the one the Ladies Aid sent, and I believe they sent two beside the two you sent.

He had letters from Ned lately & he did not tell us that his address was changed. If he is in the Inf. he will not <sup>have</sup> such an easy time; that is my version of it anyhow.

I think the idea of the buying the threshing machine is a good one. We have discussions on it here just the same as back there I guess, its advantages & disadvantages.

Well, Earl Gushon I guess will be staying at home after all, and Bill Underwood has gone into the artillery. I think the artillery is a pretty fair job, he will likely go as a driver. I suppose Eph. will be going into the infantry, we heard he got orders to report as well.

Now I want to give Leo. a bit of good advice. Stay shut at home as long as the law allows you too. You will be plenty old enough to come when you have to come and



as far as being classed a conscript. That makes no difference because all are practically conscripts now even they do enlist of their own free will because they are all together, no distinction whatever. Take another year anyhow and if you <sup>are</sup> needed then you will be needed more than you are this year, it is enough for all the kids to have to pull out now that are in the age limits. It is true of course that there are plenty of kids in the army but they would be far better at home, it is no place for a fellow under about twenty unless he a real strong husky fellow. There is a whole battalion and more of boys in Bramshott waiting till they come ~~over~~ of age to come over, some fellows who have been over here and were sent back. I think this will be all for this time, if Joe has really a notion of signing up I hope he will consider it and stay another year anyhow and then maybe the war will be over. If this summer doesn't see the finish I think that ought to. Love to all  
 Russell



May 1918