

AMERICAN

Letter No ~~III~~.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Jan. 21st 1917

Dear Carleton.

I just got back from a two days trip to the Base Hospital again. The companies that ~~are~~ ^{are} out there on this construction work had a minstrel show all prepared. Before the show it was up to the band to give a little concert. This was the 2nd solo I've played in public. If I keep on I'll be a solo man when I get back in the old Bangor Band. After the concert + minstrel show had finished, we played for the officers + nurses to dance.

When I got back I found 5 letters waiting for me. I was some glad to get yours + mother's too. It was of more int than all the others so I saved it until last.

The Brewer boys are billeted in this town + I'm going up to see Bob + see what he has for news today or to-morrow.

It seems good to have so many friends over here; One fellow in the Band has just received two large boxes



from home. One was over 3 months getting here. They both weighed about 19 lbs. They were filled with mostly canned food etc. That canned chicken sounds good.

It doesn't seem possible that it was 18 below a month ago in the States. I doubt if we have a fire much longer as it is very warm here & the snow is all gone.

Does Clara ever play on her violin or practice after she gets home from work? Did Reynold get home for Christmas? I'd like to get a nice long letter from Reynold; he has owed me one for some time & I'm pretty anxious about him. Tell him I've got something for him & will send it in a couple days.

It wouldn't be surprising if I heard you'd moved to Mass. before I get back. Three fellows said their folks had moved since they



left the states; One to Mich. So E. Hall & Lambert have enlisted; it doesn't seem possible.

Mother asked about advancement? I am 3rd class mus; of course as you work up to 1st class or solo your pay increases accordingly. When I have the only Sax. & get a chance to play solos & get a better chance to make good. I get a little over \$40 a month; besides the \$20 allotment I have taken out a \$5000 insurance. The money I have left I'm saving for my fur-tough which is due next month. I hope to visit one of the cities & will prob. have some int. stories when I get back.

Guess I'll have to finish this letter as it is time for rehearsal. I'd like to have a couple suits of middle weight underwear sometime when



you are sending anything.

Tell mother that book was the finest I ever read & about 15 have read it besides me. I shall be glad to get N. Mc piece of sheet music; ~~It's too bad~~ ~~It's too bad~~ What kind of a business did pa have this Christmas?

There are several fellows in the band that want diamonds & I promised them pa. would use them right & give them as good a trade as anyone.

Did I tell you that I have decided to get a Tenor horn or Sax, a size larger than the one I have. I'm going to buy the best & latest instrument possible; it will be good for orchestra work.

The big guns have been pretty active on the front to day; you can hear them very plain on a quiet day.



I wonder what R. has for meals;
we had onion ~~soup~~ for dinner.

We play a concert to night & I must
fix up my horn & shave while I
have time.

You might send this letter to
R. as I have written you all the
news at present.

With love to all
Earle.

Mus. Earle W. Bunker
103rd U. S. Inf. Band
Hager Co. 26th Div.
A. E. F.