My dear Essie:

This morning, I received three letters, two from you and one from Gerry Cleary. You state in your letters (of the 20th and 28th of March) that as yet you have received no word from me. Well, kids, that is tough. You may be discouraged and all that, but believe me, I am sick and tired of the whole shooting match, in other words, I'm disgusted here. I've been writing and writing, every spare moment I got, I sent a line to someone, and this is what I got for an answer. By this time, you must have received some
word, for surely one letter at least must have found its way over. Several, I'll admit, must be held by the censor, but a chap from N.Y. received an answer to a letter he sent on March 27th from England to U.S. March 25th was the day on which his folk received it. That being the case, I figure that you must have received something by this time.

I was slow to write, at first, for the restrictions were great, and then I thought that if I did write, the letter would never leave England.

Now about that money question. Before leaving the States, I had one half of my salary turned over to mother. That will leave me slightly over fifteen dollars.
out of which I will have to pay $1.40 for insurance, and my laundry will be about one dollar a month. The rest, well, that goes for cat's, hot ice cream, cake, pie, candy or anything like that. Just plain bread, biscuits, and cocoa.

It was our February pay, which we received over here, and we got that in full, because it was the last part of that month I made the allotment. Now, after we draw March's pay, you will receive that $10. If I dared to I'd send over what I have saved.
since pay day, but I hate to risk it. I'll wait till I get a
bunch, then cable it. At this present moment, I am having
an argument as to whether I should send you a cablegram
or not. I'll look it up, the next time I go to town.

Catie girl, we surely would like to give you a race, with
those socks, but I'm afraid that you shall have several
pair done, before we get back. Better start getting your winter
outfit ready. I think we shall need a lot.

Now in your letter of the 20th of March, I have to start all over
again. We have not received the expected letter. Oh! darn it! Catie,
it makes me mad. This morning,
when I woke up, and heard them talking about mail in the next tent, I could not wait, still mine was brought to me. I was just trying to picture in my mind what you would have to say, and I was very happy. I was composing an answer. Much different from this, I am mad now, and cold, that is why some of these sentences will be so hard to read. My fingers are getting stiff.

Now I hope this news, of how I feel, will not make you folks feel badly, for this spell of
sullenness will not last long, as it is chow time now, and after I get a bite to eat, I'll feel better.

Hoping that you all are well, and receiving lots of mail. I remain,

Your loving brother,

Richard

P.S. I understand from current rumors, that Neil's regiment is over here, somewhere.

P.S. After chow, and we had a great feed today. Stewed beef, model potatoes, peas, bread and butter, pudding. Just received a "Blighty Bundle" from Mrs. McAnagle and Ruth. It was great. Carrots, cocoa, fruit, candles, cookies, and everything. I feel about 100% better this afternoon. Don't mind anything I said.

R.M. Holmosen
From ERM McCliggott
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A.E.F.

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