

June 1918

Dear Emmett,

(First 3 lines unreadable)

...there was a nice bunch of it, in fact. There was one letter from father, one from mother, there were 4 from Marie, 4 from Katherine, one from Laura, Aunt Kate and Aunt Nellie. Also heard from Mike Ford, Steadman from the office, Sister Josephine, Davey Lux and Helen D'Aarcy Quinn, an assortment, was it not?

In Marie's letter, she told me of your being all ready to go the 4th Officer Training Camp, when you received news through the Chicago paper of my little scrap and that at the last minute you changed your mind. You don't know how glad I was to hear of this, Emmett. although I regret very much if I caused you any disappointment. I had written you right after Cass received Marie's letter telling him that you had left, congratulating you and telling you how glad I was. But I really didn't feel it, Emmett, as I would like to have you stay with the folks until I return. And besides, Emmett, I do not think so much of that training camp for it is impossible to commission over 50% of those that enter. You would also be up against it in a way as the greater portion of their recommendations are men who have been picked for their exceptional abilities as soldiers and I know how hard it is to compete with men who have had this training, especially where they are coming right out of the other training camp into this one. The sympathy of the company commander would all be with this class and I know how hard it is to beat it.

So I think it was all for the best and personally I am tickled you did just what you did.

A commission does not make as much difference as I thought it would and many a time I have wished I was in the ranks. They are all a happy go lucky bunch with none of the worries that the platoon commander always must feel. It is an entirely different thing being a Michigan Avenue officer with nothing to look after except your uniform and the Lieut or Captain in the trenches with 50 or 60 men to move. So later, if it is your turn to go, don't worry if you are not one of the shoulder strap bunch, because the chances are you will be glad later on that you are just where you are. It's just exactly the way I feel about it, Emmet. and I think it is one of the many reasons I am glad you are still with the folks instead of off at the training