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Glasgow, Scotland
October 25th 1918

My darling Mother, Sisters, & Brother :-

It is with a flood of joy and pleasure that, thru the medium of a friend, I write you a letter. For quite a while I havent been able to write to you - not since I got off the ship.

How are you all getting along? Are you well? What are you doing? I suppose the children are going to school & learning fast. Tell them I send my encouragement & tell them that I dont think they can do a better thing than study well every opportunity they have to go to school.

How are the horses getting along? Does "Trailer" still look well? And does he ever have to work any? How is Prince? Is the little calf still living? I suppose it is and getting along fine.

Mother, did you harvest a good crop? I imagine that you & Mr Finley's folks had a lot of fun gathering the crops together. Its too bad for women and children to have to work in the field but it seems now that times are very encouraging for the men folks to get to come home. That will be a great time, wont it? What are Mr. Fiske & Emma doing? Does he still live at Mr. Kerr's place. When you see Mr Fiske & Emma give them my very best love. Kiss little Eunice for me and,

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by-the-way, what is the baby's name? It has slipped my memory. I will ask you to tell me about Mr. Selman's folks too. It has been so long since I heard from them till they would seem like strangers. I haven't heard from them since Marion & I were at College Station.

I have just written Eddie a letter; had one from him last night about ten o'clock and, believe me, I was glad to get it. Do you hear from him regularly & do you ever hear from Henry? How often do Aunt Missouri's folks hear from Willie? If I'm not mistaken I heard before I left America that he was in France.

Do you ever see Mr. Deb Smith & know anything of his work. As for a stranger he probably beats me in that line of work. I hope however, that he hasn't been able to earn that reputation for himself. If he hasn't, I'll have a chance, if I should care for it, of getting the work again when I get home. Does Mr. Sieke ever visit him in his work that you know of.

Mother, they feed me cream almost altogether here now. In fact, they have all the time. Its good, rich & delicious just like the cream of "Baby's" milk - so you can imagine how fine it is. Its not pure cream however, but just about half & half. Besides milk they feed me toast, & pudding, & eggs fixed in many ways & many other delicious things

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to eat. There's no danger of me starving to death here, is there?

There have been very few sunny days in Scotland so far; in fact, I think not more than four. It never has shone all day, I believe, only for half days until today when it shone longest of all. For the most part, the weather is foggy & dismal.

How many of the boys have gone to the army since I left? I imagine they are getting very scarce around there now. Is Elton as big a monkey as he usually is? Wish I could see him play some of his pranks. Do you remember when he was going after Betty and, getting ready, said "Ma, get me something to wrap that nigger upon." Ha Ha. "Baby Doll" is as cute as she can be too. Bless her sweet time, I wish I could see her - also every one of you.

Mother, I have found a very dear friend in the person of Mrs. Gardiner here in Glasgow. She comes to see me about every two days bringing presents, good comfort and cheer. I'm sure her visits have helped me a great deal. She is a very wealthy lady & devotes most of her time to charity. Besides Mrs. Gardiner, I have several boy friends who come to see me. All in all, I'm sure their visits do me a great deal of good. Friendship is a very great thing & I'm sure

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that pleasant & human relationships would be impossible without it.

Where is Father now? Does he ever come to see you. Dont you think it would be a grand thing if you two could live together now? I cant see those little differences of opinion & discontentment that I could long ago. Encourage him to come to see you every time you can & try to make him feel at home.

I forgot to mention the boys in the hospital who are well or getting well are as kind to me as they possibly can be. I cough some & a lot of them go on the run to hand me the spittoon. They shave me & do various other things for me & seem to take pure delight in it. I never had better friends in my life

I dont know where my Company has gone to. I have heard they went to Winchester, England, but as to that, I dont know. Before very long possibly I'll be hunting them. Will be glad when I can join them for I am getting tired of being sick. By the way, when I stop to figure it up, I have been sick something like 37 days. However, for a long period of the first of my sickness I was not sick to amount to anything & then for a number of days during the last of my sickness I have been doing as well, in fact, much

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better than could be expected. I tell you, Mother, I am improving fast. The first thing you know (in fact, in fewer days than you expect, if you dont mind) I will be sitting up & writing my letters myself. I have already been sitting up in bed a few times. Thats great, isnt it?

Mother, dear, I will write as often as I can. I want to hear from you also. Tell Evie to take time to write a long letter & you do the same. I want Elton & Carrie to write me too. If they fail, I'll get the billy-goat. Ha! Ha!

God bless you, dear ones, and helps you in your works. All be good, and write soon.

With the very best love & good wishes for you all, I remain

Your loving son & brother

Burtis Lawrence

per A.S.

P.S. - Do you have any dominickers to eat - spare-ribs, and turnips or other goodies from the garden. Wish I could be there to help you eat such grub

Yours lovingly

B.L.