10-30-1918

Elmo Culbert First World War Correspondence #07

Elmo S. Culbert

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Mrs. Elmo J. Culbert,
Salt Lake City,
Utah.

To Shields Staty Co.
Surprise Box
For a little gift
Thursday Night

Dear dear little girl:

Such a pleasant surprise dear—your lost toy how we did enjoy it, I say we for everything is 50-50 around here so I simply had to pass it around. Just wanted to play piggy keep it all for myself, but that isn’t hardly fair with the fellows who have been giving me candy and cakes night along. But the fellows all sure liked it, sweetheart. It just made me kind of blue when I opened it and read your sweet note, for I knew just how much love, thoughtfulness & trouble was behind it. It was just like my girl though.

You speak of my thrift dear. It’s nothing for if I wanted to I couldn’t squander an awful lot here. But I did spend a little getting here. And you also mention pay day. I haven’t seen
if yet - don't know when we will have one.

This has been a trying two days, sweetheart. They are tightening us every minute on discipline & believe me it is tight. Got the worst bailing out yesterday I ever received. I told my lieutenant that we weren't doing a movement as laid down in the book. The Captain heard me, and - well, when he got through telling me how I could be court marshalled for saying that, or otherwise called me down, I was so damn mad I could have bawled. But - I'm still here & guess I'll have to take it. But mine was nothing to what some of the fellows got. It's all in our course, though. If is the means, I'm to understand of making a good officer out of us.

And then we've been taking up Bayonet work. and if they so much as I see a smile on your face, you might as well quit. Every thing in this work is just as ferocious as we can make it, and our features have to be set in the ugliest look we can acquire. Strenuous!
My arms ache so when we get through that I can hardly hold my rifle. And it's all at top speed— the slow man gets the bayonet stuck in him instead of getting his Hun. Our dummiest are all named “The Kaiser” “Blown Prince” “Fritz” of a dozen other names.

I think we will go on the Range next week, although I don’t know anything for sure. We have been practicing on the elementary positions of the loadings and firings. Our officers say we will go on Range pretty soon— before the cold weather sets in. I will like this, I think.

When we do, we get up at four o’clock, get an early breakfast, hike five miles to the range, stay there all day. Get back about seven thirty at night, get our dinner and in bed by eight thirty. That lasts one week—but I’ll tell you more.
about that later when I get it.

This work is putting me in fine shape, baby girl, and although it is hard, I like it. If I'm likely enough to get my Commission, I sure will be a hard boiled bird when I leave here. And baby, I'm not half as sure of getting it now as I was. The requirements are some stiff — it's no child's play. However, I'm working harder every day. Baby, that's why I haven't been writing every night. I simply have to get my lessons, and that means a lot of study for me.

Dear must go. Our assembly whistle just blew.

Goodnight, dear sweet girl.

Always your,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: "Amo"]
Mrs. Elmo S. Culbert,
Salt Lake City,
Utah.

C/O Shields Staty. Co.

Surprise Box
For a Little
[[underline]] girl[[/underline]]
Thursday Night

Dear, dear little girl: -

Such a pleasant surprise, dear – your box and how we did enjoy it. I say we, for everything is 50-50 around here and I simply had to pass it around. Just wanted to play pig and keep it all for myself, but that isn’t hardly fair with the fellows who have been giving me candy and cake right along. But the fellows all sure liked it sweetheart. It just made me kind of blue when I opened it and read your sweet note, for I knew just how much love, thoughtfulness and trouble was behind it. It was just like my girl, though.

You speak of my thrift, dear. Its nothing, for if I wanted to, I couldn’t squander and awful lot here. But I did pinch a little getting here. And you also mention pay day. I haven’t seen
it yet – don’t know when we will have one.

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Always your
Elmo.