

11-2-1918

1918-11-02, Elmo to Emeline

Elmo S. Culbert

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Saturday, the Second.

Sweetheart of mine:-

Two weeks today, dear, since I left my little girl & our home. And what a lot has happened - it seems like two years if the next two months are as full as our start has been, and ~~they~~ ^{they} promise to be, I'll be away from you a period of decades. But it has to be done, dear, and I guess it is all for the best.

Today has been a busy one. We had an inspection this morning in the field, about two miles from our barracks; had to pitch our tents, and fix our pack for inspection. On a trip of this kind, we simulate a regular ten day hike, taking with us equipment enough to last that long - our shelter half ($\frac{1}{2}$ of a shelter tent) pole and pins for same, a towel, 2 prs. sox, toothbrush, comb, mess kit, poncho (rain coat) all done up in a specified way in our pack carrier and haversack. Ours was not quite complete, but when

they are, they weigh about 60 lbs.
This is besides your gun. Well,
when we got back from that hike,
we had our examination - written -
on a review of the week's work.
It was stiff too, but I think I
did alright.

after mess, at noon, we
were assembled to have our
official company picture taken,
and held until two o'clock on
that. The rest of the afternoon
and evening belonged to us, to
do as we want. I had so
much to do, I didn't know where
to start. Well, I lit into my
washing, and by the time I was
through and had taken my bath
(shower bath) it was mess time
again. I'm in charge of Quarters

tomorrow, so won't have time to do any of my own work. Shall write than telling you of those duties.

Baby girl, I've received just 4 letters from you so far. I know you have written more, but I'm unlucky enough to have missed them, I guess. My heart just ached for you, dear, when I read them, for I have some idea of how you feel. But be brave, dear, as I know you will be. Old sweetheart, your boy is loving you every minute, and praying for your ultimate happiness.

Have a little studying to do, sweet girl, so shall get at it.

Goodnight now, dear. A big kiss, baby.

Your own
E. C. C.

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Elmo