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Elmo Culbert First World War Correspondence #08

Elmo S. Culbert

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Saturday, the Second.

Sweetheart of mine:—

Two weeks today, dear, since I left my little girl & your 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 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 bag (1/2 of a shelter tent) pole and pins for same, a towel, 2 pairs socks, toothbrush, comb, mess kit, poncho (rain coat) all done up in a specified way in our pack carrier & 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 & evening belonged to us to do as we want. I had so much to do, I didn't know where to start. Well, I hit into my washing, & by the time I was through I 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 asked 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
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Elmo