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Charles Eggeling First World War Correspondence #15

Matt Shields

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Dear Old Pal,

No doubt you'll be surprised when you receive this. I read a postal of yours dated Oct 31, 1918 about 5 days ago. Well, pal there have been many changes in the States since you have gone.

Suppose you have heard what the "Flue" Spanish Influenza has done here. Just think 350,000 deaths, and my poor Minnie had to be one of them. You have often heard that saying "faithful unto death," well that's what poor Minnie was to me.
I was taken down with the "flu" first, and Min nursed me night & day. You could not get a trained nurse for love nor money. From the "flu" I went into Pneumonia for four days and nights. I was in a delirium with a fever of 107 degrees. That's what killed the poor kid. She won't herself to death during those 4 days fearing that I was going to die.

I pulled through the 4 days ok and 2 days after mine lay down with the flu, from which she contracted pneumonia. She was only sick four days and then died. Just think, Charlie. I lost. You know...
I ran across "Doree one night last week when I was coming down Webster and when near 179th I thought I recognized her and as I passed her I turned to her. As I coasted along I looked back and saw she had crossed onto the opposite side of the street. When she got down opposite the movie that's at 178th she recognized me and came across the street to talk to me. At first I thought I had made a mistake. That brother of hers is some guy. One good heating
will set him on his feet.

His mother had to go to the Court about him. I was up to their house last Sunday.

December 11, 1918.

Irene and her mother paid us a visit after last evening. They came about 8:30 P.M. Her mother is a very nice person. Seems a shame that had of hers has to worry her son. She was telling me the Court had sent him a letter.

As I was going across Tumon Ave. with the bus yesterday morning I saw “Buck” Herman on his way to work.
I don't know if much more to write. The people of the States shore are delighted at their work you fellows done over there on those times. Before me, and Yankee speed is what brought the war to an end. It's taken the American, the number of Crim's have increased here in the Army, only 8 murder cases in 2 weeks. Every one of the cases have been cleaned up and all those implicated in them are awaiting trial. A station agent at Satunale and aub station was one phone held up and murdered for $60.00.

He is the same old "brick" a smile on his face from ear to ear. Didn't have time to speak to him, I had a wagon full of prisoners.

Since the war has quit, every time to clean up.

Beneath I'll make my exit now. Hoping to hear from you again and that that ankle of yours is in comm mission again.

I am your old pal,

Matt Shields.
Dear Old Pal,

No doubt you'll be surprised when you receive this. I read a postal of yours dated Oct. 31, 1918 about 5 days ago. Well pal there have been many changes in the States, since you have gone.

Suppose you have heard what the “flue” “Spanish Influenza” has done over here. Just think 350000 deaths, and my poor Minnie had to be one of them. You have often heard that saying, “Faithful unto death,” well that’s what poor Min was to me.
I was taken down with the “flue” first, and Min nursed me night & day. You could not get a trained nurse for lone nor money. From the “flue” I went into Pneumonia for four days and nights I was in a delierium with a feaver of 107 degrees. That’s what killed the poor kid she, worried herself to death during those 4 days fearing that I was going to die.

I pulled through the 4 days ok and 2 days after Min lay down with the flue. from which she contracted pneumonia. she was only sick four days and then died. Just think Charlie [[strikethrough]] You [[/strikethrough]] what I lost. You know
the kind she was. I was still confined to my bed on the
day she was buried. Hows that for
“luck” In all I was laid up for
about 2½ months. I put my things
in storage and John and I are
now with my mother. But Charlie
its not the same as the dear
little home, we had on Walton
Ave. some difference living with
your mother. John the poor kid
talks more about his mother now
than at any other time. Hes always
under the impression that she
is [strikethrough] about [strikethrough] coming back to us. when
God makes her better
I ran across “Irene one night last week [[strikethrough]] when [[/strikethrough]] I was driving the bus down Webster Ave coming from Bronx park station and when near 179th st I thought I recognized her and as I passed her I waved to her. as I coasted along I floated[[?]] back and saw she had crossed onto the opposite side of the street. when she got down opposite the movie that’s at 178th st she recognized me and came accross the street to talk to me. At first I thought I had made a mistake. That Brother of hers is some guy. One good beating
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December 11, 1918

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he is the same old “buck”
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Since the war has quit,
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Every one of the cases have been
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held up and murdered for $60.00
I don't know of much more to write. The people of the station shure are delighted at that work you fellows done over there on those Huns. Believe me kid Yankee speed is what brought the war to an end. It takes The Americans every time to clean up.

Guess Ill make my exit now. Hoping to hear from you again and that that [[triple strikethrough]] ankle [[/triple strikethrough]] of yours is in commission again.

I am your old pal
Matt Shields
I know of one who looks for your return.