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apl 6 Reed Thursday 14 March 1918
Dearest Mother
Have a little time so will try and
make a start at writing up 3 weeks
records which is quite "a chore" as I told
James. Gave my lecture today and so feel
a little freer.

Monday 25 Feb. Met a miserable. Started
to work at maps for my lecture in mess
but Jerry came in and we drafted a new
order about marking equipment,
which took all morning although I
got out just before tables were
dismissed. Forgot the afternoon lecture
by Douglas and King had to come to
office for me but was only a few
minutes late. Douglas gave a very
good one for him and much discussion
arose which I always like. Interviewed
Leonard afterwards about his recent
musketry course. Went for short ride
on Buster and then finished up in
office and had my hours French.
Wrote Mother, James and Ed about
his getting a commission in England.
and just as I finished a wire came from
Camp Campendant saying my leave
for 8 days had been granted and
was naturally very happy & made
some preparations to get away tomorrow

Sunday 26 Feb - Sent Elaine a birthday
 cable which will be late but will
 show I have not forgotten 28 Feb!!!
 gave Sean a few orders about one or two
 things I want to take and some biscuits
 etc for Sally. Made my recommendations
 for our allotment (3) of birthday honours.
 Handed over to the Empire to act as O.B.
 as Smith still on leave, changed my
 clothes although all much of a much as far
 as wear goes, and attended stables. Got a
 tender from MMBB and Jerry Ferris &
 Parmer came as far as ~~the~~ Mulli where
 we had tea and a drink as very cold after
 3 hours motor trip. Left Buller Works
 in check room at sidrow as too short to
 wear with my "best" jacket and caught
 my train at 6:30 and had a good run to
 Paris. The others made a night of it in
 - and returned next day. Sally was
 out and I gave her a great surprise as
 waited in her room and turned lights
 out when I heard her get off the lift.
 Found her looking very badly and
 sorry to say but strain of last ten days
 about her mother has told on her.
 Had bribed old "concerge" not to tell her
 I had arrived. Talked pretty late but
 left her plans for a future discussion.

Wednesday 27 Feb. Had a good talk about necessity of her going back after petildymer in bed and did not get up until about 11.00.

As the information about Mrs Brimlow was not direct from her or any of Sarah's brothers although perhaps more disconcerting from an outside source we decided that both would wait for my next leave at any rate and then re-raise the question, unless urged for urgency in which case she would have to go at once and would sail from France if it could be arranged. In the meantime we hope to hear directly from Edna or any of you who might go to Atlantic City of Mrs Brimlow's real condition. Mr. Blair made enquiries at Coche about French sailing and found about a boat a week from Bordeaux, but great red tape for any foreigners (like Sally now!!!) to get a passport into U.S. likely meaning some delay.

Had lunch at Vernet, very nice considering the restrictions on bread, milk, sugar & butter, but apparently none on meat as was case last summer. Went down to Place de la Republique and made a nice call on Miss Moorat Club who looks very warm as she spends her whole time there. The place was crowded which bespeaks the need for and appreciation of such a

14-3-17

Place. Saw very few ^{4.} Canadians, mostly
Angers, as our roles are being weaned away
by a new Canadian YMCA Club, some say on
account of Mrs Moore once having been on the
stage. She is married of course and her husband
is a Big Game at the front. I must say YMCA are
very narrow in many ways and men who know
the B A & N L Club of course still go there & line
there. Sat on "terrace" at Cafe de la Paix
and watched ever changing & varied crowd
of all nations, American, Serbs, Italians
Canadians, Angers & English as well as
the always smart French officers & men &
gaily dressed women. I always enjoy it.
We had "pate blanc". Returned to Permit
and further discussed our plans until
dinner, Sally having been granted a well's
leave. Met several of Sally's friends at Hotel
some very charming such a nice class of
people.

Thursday 28 Feb Elaris birthday. According
to French custom we always had "petit dejeuner" at
8.30 in bed as it cannot be served later. Sally
miserable with her old trouble, very persistent
and first time since last summer. I blame
the bread and her run down condition as
cannot always get biscuits, and she eats so
little even when well. Bought her some
malted milk at the almost prohibitive price
of 10 frs a small bottle, and wrote you to

see if you could send her some of some plain biscuits. Went down town prepared to see Hamilton (Canadian APM) brother of Estelle's friend in Ottawa. Had my 1000 note changed and sent off to be able to take much of it back with me. Went to Carillon at 5.30 and had tea with Capt Roberts, the Roosevelts, Murren Manning & Cholinony Jones, all American friends of ours very pleasantly. Had trouble getting taxi and dined at Cafe de la Rue with Jones very gaily. Back about 10.00 & was unfortunate enough to break eye glasses and as Sally hates my "specks" suppose I will have to go without them going to parties in Paris for rest of leave.

Friday 1st March Cold but sunny. Sally still miserable and did not go out until after lunch and then only for an hour's drive in the Bois which even in winter is beautiful. Sally pointed out several mansions on the Champ Elysee wrecked by bombs. All monuments & statues are being sand bagged. Sharpe & Bernard called on way back from NICE were surprised to see me. We later dined at Ciro's and went to Casino de Paris although I doubted wisdom of Sally's going out. Saw Gaby & Edys there and more half dressed women than I have ever seen together before.

14-3-18

an excellent show, however and we had rather an amusing experience in getting a taxi afterwards. They are two of my finest officers of any kind of them. I wrote Mrs. Bunker as reassuringly as possible.

Saturday 2 March Still bluish & miserable. Made Sally stay in bed all day & fed her on malted milk. Had my dinner sent up to room and stayed in all day. We are reading Bernard's experiences as ambassador to Germany abroad. Had thought of Fontainebleau for weekend but no pleasure out there in weather like this. Muriel in several times to see Sally.

Sunday March 3rd I realize that our notions at home with white bread, butter or margarine or real sugar instead of ascorbic are away ahead of what French or English civilians can get. Cocoa or coffee without milk are not up to much. Very interested in a book and Sally stayed in bed until tea time when we got a taxi & went over to Latin Quarter (Rue de Grenelle) and had tea in a real little home with the Phillips, most pleasantly. He is a war correspondent and she works with Sally at the Club. Had some scotch scones which she had made and they were nice. Took a taxi back and had dinner at Veret. Muriel came in later.

14-3-18

Monday 4 March. Sally better, I am glad to say and also to eat her lunch. Still raining & cold snow with about 4" of slush on streets.

Went down Boulevard Haussmann bought Sally a small birthday present and had lunch at Café de la Paix. Arranged to have some info about medals engraved for men of regiment and called on Mr Roy about selling tractors to French Govt and asked for a letter to the Agricultural Department hoping my French would be good enough to discuss them with the officials there. He said however that all French Govt purchases in Canada or US were made by a standing French Purchase Board in New York and advised our getting in touch with them direct or through our department of Trade, Commerce, at Ottawa. This for Father's information, I see Ford has sold 500 to Canadian Govt for resale to Canadian farmers at about \$800 each. Our prospects of business in Canada would not appear very good if this is true.

Surprised no mail forwarded for me yet. Helped Sally choose a spring hat at "Lévis" on Blvd Capuchine that lay home as our feet wet, and Sally made chocolate and we had biscuits in our room. Tea anywhow is tea only & saucer, no milk & cats.

14-3-78

Saw the Phillips at Carillon. They are a charming pair, & he very delicate. Early dinner & went up & read our book.

Tuesday 5th March. Slush & snow again; unforlunatly in weather this leave. Had hot bath and after lunch called on Roosevelts at their flat but they were out. Went downtown & saw a good movie. Sat on "Terrace" in spite of weather & had cafe but could not stay long. The French set out even in wind & rain. Looked at a silk sweater for Sally but price 195frs as beyond our reach just now. Bought some dates & figs and had a party at the Carlton which watched the gay crowd there. Went to Cullon & had tea with an American officer just over who had a letter of introduction from Laurie Knoff, Edna's old friend. A very nice chap working in American Red Cross. Took crowded Metro home (I would hate to think of Sally being caught in such a fabulous crowd during a raid) Played bridge with Gyp & Archibald Mrs Heathwell after dinner, Sally winning. Retired right after as Sally tired. I am such a night hawk now that never sleepy much before midnight. No letter yet which seems strange. Sally had one from Dunes.

14-3-18

Wednesday 6 March

9
Salma's birthday, our first together for 3 years!! but as her day at cash desk at Club she felt she should go and I fear I did not help out when Mrs Phillips offered to take her place last Monday and was sorry, however we made best of it & went to laundry for her uniform in morning which was not dry, and I took her down by train through Rouen after lunch and left her there with a small bunch of flowers. She looks very sweet in the uniform & was glad to see me in it. Took her to Les Invalides where saw Napoleon's Tomb now sandbagged and a yard full of German guns aeroplanes & other trophies and full in with 3 other officers and an old veteran of 1870 who showed us around & gave me his picture which James is taking back.

Went to Eiffel Tower but could not get up so contented ourselves with a trip on the Ferris wheel which was running. Was struck by how the "Sacré Coeur" church in Rouen stands out. My friends took me down tower & bought them a drink at Cintra and then rushed down to get baby who I found in front of a queue of about 20 men selling tickets at the desk as far as she could count the change. She had a word for nearly all of

and I am sure her presence there increased the sales and I was surprised how quickly she did the necessary calculating & counting of money. She was relieved a little early and went to Crillon in a taxi and the three took Metro home very happy to be together again. Went to Roosevelt's flat for dinner & bridge after, the two wives winning. It happened to be the anniversary of their wedding too so a very pleasant party. Took Metro home.

Thursday 7 March Nice bright day at last. Lunch at Vermet and took train to Gab du Nord where I found out about my train and then wandered about Mounmaire and visited the Sacré Coeur, a beautiful new cathedral right in middle of slums. Saw charred remains of "Maurin Range". Took Metro down to Uffra and enquired for Rackham & Mums at Westminster but they had not arrived.

Gave Sally a "birthday bust" by making a round of the Cafés, Curran, Ciras, etc and a good dinner at "Henri's", after which neither of us slept very well. Was lucky in being able to get 2 packages of cigarettes at US- YMCA. They are very scarce.

No mail and very little for Sally. Murem came in for a little while, a nice girl but very stayed & proper I fear.

Friday 8 March

11

14-3-17

Our last day so did not attempt much, as these parties (our 11th) were seen very easily. Took train to Opera after lunch & bought some more U.S. cigarettes. Met the Phillips by chance on terrace and had a very bright party which did us both good, such a nice surprise. Took in a movie but so many continued stories now make them unsatisfactory. Sally made chocolate & wafers/biscuits & I packed my few belongings and a jar of figs Sally insisted on my taking. Said good bye to a few friends. Jim & Ruth refused a bridge party with Miss Archbold, and went up to spend our last couple of hours.

Had only been in our room about time when the "alert" went and as generally impossible to get a taxi and Metro stops I concluded I would have to walk to station. Heard 5 bombs drop but only one close. Sally saw me out with her electric torch and walked a block with me. Fortunately I ran into a fiacre after a few blocks in almost pitch dark, and by paying triple fare he drove me to Gare du Nord about 3 miles when I spent 3 hours in dark that I might have had with Sally as not a hair moving, 2 bombs having fallen down the track

14-3-18

about 200 yards, but no casualties and only
 glass broken in station. I thought at first
 I would get an extra day. I dropped Sally a
 card and pulled out at 12.40 AM on
Saturday 9 March I stayed all about Sally
 gave me until — at 5.30 AM when I
 reclaimed my British warm sweats glad of
 it later I caught my local train at 6.10
 fortunately running into Stearns one of
 my officers returning from a course.
 which made rest of journey pleasant.
 Got home in time for late lunch & heard
 James was at Corps and had been there
 since Wednesday. Was so sorry, but of
 course did not expect him so soon. He
 turned up about 12.30 and I spent every
 minute with him until he left for England
 on Monday. Was so sorry too that he had
 shown him over the front but as he had
 been up to Vic Kent's funeral, no use getting
 up again with time so limited. Attended to
 a few urgents and spent rest of afternoon
 chatting about you all when who should
 turn up but Rufus (at last a major after
 having commanded a flight & battery for
 9 months). Prevailed on him to stay
 for dinner and had a little celebration
 James showing us some snaps. James
 & I sat up to small hours in my room as

much to talk over then missed an extra hour as summer time commences today and he had to start

Sunday 10 March an hour earlier. He left with me so was together all the time. He said how well & bright he had left you all and what an inspiration you had all being for last 11 months to all with whom you had to do. He looked tired and as usual I fear is trying to rush things too much and as trying to catch next convey back to Canada could not prolong his visit.

I went to GHA for a car for him tomorrow and after lunch we walked over to the cemetery where things are being well looked after. Home in time for high tea at 6.00 after which Frank Ware called to see him & I attended a very good concert given by our C.I.H. orchestra. The Canadian mail for over 2 weeks and was sorry not to hear before he left. Wrote Mrs. Jenkins, re Woods things and again smoked a cigar together & sat up rather late. The dear lad loaded me down with cigarettes and was sorry I had no souvenirs for him. A nice box of biscuits from Mrs. Row Sittart. Dinner & conditions most comfortable so will be able to discharge your regards & hardships' love
Love
John