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Pvt Lincoln Hasch Letter Co B 108 Engineers, A.E.F. To Miss Winifred Cline, Maywood, Illinois

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December 29, 1918

Dear Winifred;

Well Winifred. I guess it's useless to tell you I was very much surprised & pleased to receive your Christmas greeting. You know war is all that Sherman said it was.

I am a buck private & have went through the war as such and in some ways I'm rather glad because I was always in the thick of it & that made it all the more exciting.

We were in some pretty hot places but I guess you have read enough in the papers & anything I would.....

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try to add would be futile. Anyway girl I have no fear of hell anymore.

At first we were with the English, after we got started with them on their big drive they moved us to the sector taken by the first Army, that is in the Argonnes woods. It sure was boiling. We were in there 50 days and the division was then taken to another sector as we were(we?) completely(completely) exhausted in more ways then one, we were pretty well shot up. So they took us to the place where they were starting to flank Metz and we were there when they signed the armistice. All we did there was to sneak out on the "Jerries" at nite & go duck shooting with the Germans as the ducks. And....

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after the Armistice we still heard the shrapnel whistle as we took out about 5,000 tank mines.

Now that it's all over I can't say that I'm very much in love with the French. Their country is rather nice but it's all artificial. Their real beauty now lies in their ruined towns or towns that have been very much shelled. And the people are hospitable just as long as the "franc's" last. And most of them are very dirty and their morals are very low.

Now we are in Luxembourg and there is all the difference in the world. The people here have been cut off from the world for....

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four years & of course they haven't the best to eat but what they have they willingly share. You know it isn't the gift but the spirit of the giving. Tonight we had beaucoujsa potatoes fried or cooked the Luxembourger way & acorn coofee, sugar, hot milk, black bread & a sort of a plum preserve. Anything is better then army cooking. The scenery over here is beautiful. The town we are in is Nommern & it 's down a valley with high mountains on all side of it.

Christmas day I was on guard duty & it was snowing and the morning light was just beginning to creep over the snow clad mountains & away off in the distance you could hear the chimes of the church bells it was very beautiful, I wish you....

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could have been here to hear it.

Girl this war has made a man out of me. You know when you face death everyday & every minute it makes you think. Not that I had any fear of death for sometimes I think death would alleviate my sufferings.

You know dear I'm living a lie but I have been joined by God & now must abide by my oaths. You know my heart is but I can do nothing I am resigned. But if you don't find yourself awful busy I sure would appreciate a word from you now & then. Comprenez-vous. Well it is getting late & the bunch are all lying(lieing) here on the....

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floor yelling at me to put the candle out so I guess I will have to close.

I am enclosing a few things I ran across that might interest you. Hoping that this will find you the same sweet jolly girl I always knew I am

Yours

Lincoln
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