

8 avenue St. Honoré d'Eylau,

Paris, 16e.

June 8.

Dear Mrs Lardner,

I have just come back to Paris after another trip down to Spain. I saw Jim the other day---it was about June 3 I believe---out with the brigade. I think you will be glad to hear that he seems happy, in the best of spirits, and not at all upset by the various hardships of the life he has there. He is in the battalion now (the Lincoln-Washington battalion, which is the American one) and they were out on the Lerida road, beyond a village called Cervera. (I don't know if you can find it on the map, but it is between Barcelona and Lerida, nearer to Lerida of course). ~~They~~ They were moving on the night we saw them, and by this time are re-installed at Mora la Nueva, on this side of Mora de Ebro. That is where they were when I last wrote to you. They have seen no action yet, and are not likely to do so for some time. As a matter of fact, if the British-French proposals for the withdrawal of volunteers are accepted, the battalion ~~will~~ will certainly be repatriated, and it is possible that Jim never will see any action. This would disappoint him, but not you, I imagine!

He looks fine and is very sunburned. His nose has peeled off so many times that he doesn't pay any attention to that any more. He has been drilling and learning the business of being a soldier. I think you should be very proud of him.

A couple of fellows who came up from Barcelona with me two days ago are returning tonight, and they will take charge of the letters we have here for Jim (there are two from you) and will deliver them to him at the front or wherever he is. They will also take him some milk chocolate and other things ~~in~~ he wants. I told him we had some money from you for packages, and asked him what he wanted, and at first he had some difficulty

thinking of anything he wanted! Most of the boys want cigarettes all the time, but as Jim doesn't smoke he is spared that difficulty. There isn't any sugar or sweet stuff down there, however, and he eventually elected milk chocolate as a good thing.

I don't think you need worry about him for a long time, if ever. The Fascist advance is being pushed in a totally different direction from the place where Jim is; and it is entirely possible that the proposal to withdraw volunteers will go through, somehow, in which case he would not be down there more than a few months at most. The brigade eats well, in view of all the conditions, and there isn't much sickness. It is hot and sunny and dry down there now, and not at all bad to be out in the country. The only real danger(war danger) the battalion runs ~~is~~ at present is the occasional danger of bombing from the air, but they manage to find refuges against this immediately, wherever they are, so that when an alarm of aviation comes they can all take cover.

If my wife or I can be of any use to you in communicating with Jim or sending you news or sending him things or anything at all of that sort, don't hesitate to call on us. We are going down to Spain again in July, to Madrid and Barcelona both, and will no doubt go out to see him and the others in the battalion.

Yours very sincerely,

Vincent Sheehan

Thanks for your letter. It was here when I got in the other day.