

SINBAD THE SAPPER.

No. 2 of a Series of Letters to his friend, Horace, in Canada.

Tuesday, April, 1918.

DEER HORACE,

It was sufe gud to heer frum you agen and to no that the fokes at home and the pigs is all o.k. you didnt say hoo mary smith was goin with now gee i wish she'd rite to me. i intend to marry her when i cum back so keep of the gras Horace, we soljers is terribul fellows when weer roused. if you dont beleev me ask the corporil hoo rouses us evry morning.

As i intermated in my last i am now in the signal cumpany. a bunch of us kame down frum b cumpany and wuz lined up outside the orderly room wher the o.c. was sitting. One by one jest like the Frenchies goin to the giloteen we went in and wuz intervued. Sam Sharp was befor me and he kame out and sez "he's alrite, he aint a bad guy at all just talk up and pretend yer sumbudy." so i went in and an ofiser was sitin at a desk with a lot of ribbins on like a advertismint for robertsons paints. he asked me my name and how old i wuz then he sez "hav you heerd of me?"

"sure," I sez "yer Ivan the Terribul" gee Horace he was tickled. he didnt smile but he shook all over and I no he was bustin out laffin inside. at least i think it was that

"Look heer" he sez "how fast can you reed?"

"well" i sez "i got a bad cold but if you has a noospaper handy i'll try it perwiding it aint a russian casulty list. I cant pronounce them foren wurd's."

"damit" sez he "are you a ingnoramus?"

"no sir" I sez "i'm frum Prince edward island."

he sort of swallowed hard "hev you had any preevous military experiens?" he sez

"no sir" i sez "but for a hole week i wuz a caddy in a golf club and i knows the natur of a oath" that sort of stopt him and he lukd thotful and i smiled sort of amiabul at him. "my lad" sez he "i think yer in the rong outfut but i'll giv you a chans"

"as a talegraf operator?" sez I

"no" sez he "as a driver—Agnes (at leest thats whut it sounded like) Agnes send for Devitt" a ofiser hoo had been reeding a lot of papers marked "Ofisers application for leave" called the sarjuntmajor and told him to send for Mister Devitt and the sarjunt major got hold of the orderly corporil and told him to send for leftenant Devitt and the orderly corporil woke up a orderly and told him to go and fetch mister Devul and the orderly went outside and told one of our guys to bring the o.c. stabuls to the skepper on the dubbul. gee Horace the army sistum is sure wonderful it proves that the shortest way to get anywer is to go in circuls. they calls it the chane of responsibilittee but i notis that the sapper is at one end of the chane and everybody else on the uther. sum tug of war what? (that is english for 'oh kid') when mister Devitt arrived the o.c. sez "devitt put this man on stabuls watch him close and see that he aint kicked in the hed by a hors—horses is too valuabil these days, thatul do"

as i went out i heerd him say "Agnes—it was bad enuf when i was called the "Skipper" and Charlie" but this "Ivan" business—damn it—send for Baxter if he isunt asleep or riting a pome or sumthing. this has got to be stopt" and I suppose the chane of responsibilittee got HIM hooever he is.

well Horace i sertainly do like it heer the fellows is sure a supeerior lot and well eddicated. the guy on the hors nex to me was goin in for the ministry and anuther guy was the sun of a milliuner and was goin in for the devul. they is a fine lot and we hav sum gud times alrite. we hav sum fellows tho as grouches all the time and not only in the drivers beleev me Maria but i notis that the deecent chaps dont go in for it much. sum of them kicks when it rains and sum kicks when it dont rain and sum holler becuz they hav to play games on Wens-day afternoon insted of poker in the hut and sum grouch becuz they hav to work on Friday