

War Relief

Belgian Front. 21st November 1917.

To the Mayor

of the City of Portland.

U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

Excuse me this letter. I come to ask you to bring me, a belgian soldier, in relation with a good american correspondent, or better as we call that in our soldiers' saying: a "gotmother".

You certainly know what is soldier's life - and especially that of a belgian soldier. - Since more than 3 years I am separated from my family who is still staying in occupied Belgium. - Never I get any news from them. - So you easily understand that we are longing for some affection and consolation. -

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You, American, have done so many good - helping so many suffering in our occupied dear Country, - that I hope you will do something for a soldier, who is doing his best to free his Country, and through his Country, help to win the greatest world war. -

I hope, dear Sir, that you will grant me satisfaction and awaiting your kind reply, I remain, with my anticipated thanks.

Yours very respectful and thankful.

Jos. Vandew Brande

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Belgian Field Army
Belgian Front.