

Monday Mng. Kiss Ben Dave was fondling a
one more Willow Springs, Mo.

April 23rd, 1916.

My dear old sister & A.

It was on April 4th that I received your big bundle of Magazines, "Spectator", Cornhill, Raemaekers Cartoons, &c, and they are now all scattered, to Billy Giles, Tom Pringle, & the rest of the hungry English. For there is only Lawrence (Frances's husband) in our family who seems to appreciate direct news from home, and he is always begging for anything from Eng. and once in awhile I favor him with one of your letters for he is particular to return them - a little while ago I enclosed in our Circuit letter a letter I received from Hilda, and it was

a good one, she can & does
write about the best letter I
receive on conditions in Eng.
from any of the girls. and it
made quite a sensation, all
of them wrote me direct about
it and all felt they wanted
to write Hilda, but when it
reached St Joseph it got out-
side the Family Circle. Lillian
belongs to several Clubs and
and she read it before one
of them & that started it from
one to the other, was read before
several clubs & at a convention
of Mothers and Lillian wrote
me for permission to allow
the Editor of one of the News-
papers to publish it. as he had
made a request so to do. but
I sat right down on that &
told them hereafter to consider
any enclosures of mine confi-

confidential. I never told Hilda
fearing she might resent the
publicity but it was a splendidly
written letter & when it returned
to me it was worn to a frazzle.
I received one from her a few
days ago which the Censor had
opened. The first one of any
of your letters so treated, a
notice was pasted on it, "Opened
by Censor 3238" - but not a
word had been erased. - I told
Mama that Hilda might have
known it was going to be inspec-
ted for altho she gave me
lots of war news she did it
so cleverly that the Censor
might have dictated it. -

Many thanks to you both for
the papers. I tell Mama many
a time; "I wish I had something
good enough to send." - our

best Magazines are published
simultaneously in England and
you probably see them at the
Library. but when I have any-
thing worth while I'll send it.
by the time this reaches you
we may be enrolled with the
Allies. anyhow. for I don't see
how Wilson can postpone it
much longer. we were talking
at Breakfast table that it
would be a curious coincidence
if our boys went & met their
Cousins in Flanders. They said
they would sure stop over &
see you all when they were
mustered out. or before returning
if they could possibly do so.
but I've an idea that our
fighting will be with Mexico
reinforced by thousands of
disgruntled German-Americans

There'll be one battle in the Ozarks I know. There is a German family lives on an adjoining farm to mine and we have been spoiling for a scrap ever since your war began. There are six grown men in the family all of them Nihilists escaped from Russia a few years ago & came & bought land in these hills so as to hide. They bitterly hate Russia and think no more of killing a man than killing a flea. They seem to have no end of money but they are bad citizens. We have 100 Million dollars worth of German ships interned here which will be mighty useful, but we shall have to begin to make an army like you people had to do

This is Easter Sunday and
it was a beautiful day until
about 3 p.m. when it ended
in a Thunderstorm and downpour.
The country is beautiful, wood-
carpeted with Anemones, Violets
& pansies, and Dogwood & Red bud
in masses of bloom (These are
trees) Dogwood, Creamy & Red bud,
Red - The fruit trees have about
passed their blooming. Mama
& I took a walk early this
morning & returned with our
arms full of blossoms &
flowers to brighten up the
rooms & we sang "Christ The
Lord is risen today". You will
probably go to the Cathedral
but our Cathedral is The
Forest primeval. —

kindest love & a hug dear
and a hearty grasp for Hubert
Uncle Sam.