

11-26-1918

Letter from Ceylon Kingstom to his mother, dated November 26, 1918

Ceylon S. Kingston

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Recommended Citation

Kingston, Ceylon S., "Letter from Ceylon Kingstom to his mother, dated November 26, 1918" (1918).
Ceylon S. Kingston Papers. 5.
<https://dc.ewu.edu/kingston/5>

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Paris, France. Nov 26, 1918

My dear Mother:

I wrote a letter to John describing the voyage that I mailed at Liverpool.

We spent Sunday Nov. 4 at Liverpool and were informed that we were not going to London but to Southampton. Accordingly we were put into a train about 8 p.m. and had a night ride to Southampton. We arrived there at 4 a.m. We were taken directly to an army rest camp on the edge of town and there we stayed until Wednesday. We were handled just as a military unit is handled. Thursday we crossed the channel — a fine daylight trip to Havre. We stayed at Havre until Monday noon when we started for Paris. Train was slow and we arrived in the evening. We'll probably be here a week. The city is full of people and rooms are hard to get. I am well fixed.

We saw little of England but got some idea of France yesterday. Everybody was impressed with its fertility and beauty. It has been warmer here than in England. England has a damp penetrating cold that gets down to the bones.

Prices are high especially in food. In Southampton an egg costs 16 cents, a good sized apple 25 cents, an orange about twice what an apple costs. On the other hand the price of the absolute necessities has been kept down by allowing each person only so much and no more. Butter is 60 cents a pound but one's allowance is one ounce a week. Meat is not much higher than in New York but $\frac{1}{2}$ a pound is the allowance. Fish is not rationed and takes the place. Potatoes are cheaper than in N.Y. The price of bread has been kept down.

There seems to be more food in France. The French do not seem to have rationed food as in England but in Paris you must have a bread ticket with you to get bread in a restaurant. The waiter tears off a coupon and you get your 100 grammes of bread.

Beefsteak with the bone out in Havre costs \$1.20 a pound. Butter is about as costly as meat but you can get all that you want to buy. An apple of fair appearance cost me 10 cents. An egg in Havre is 12 cents.

The fact is that the good old U.S.A. is the place to live so far as food is concerned and most other things too.

Affectionately,
Ceylon