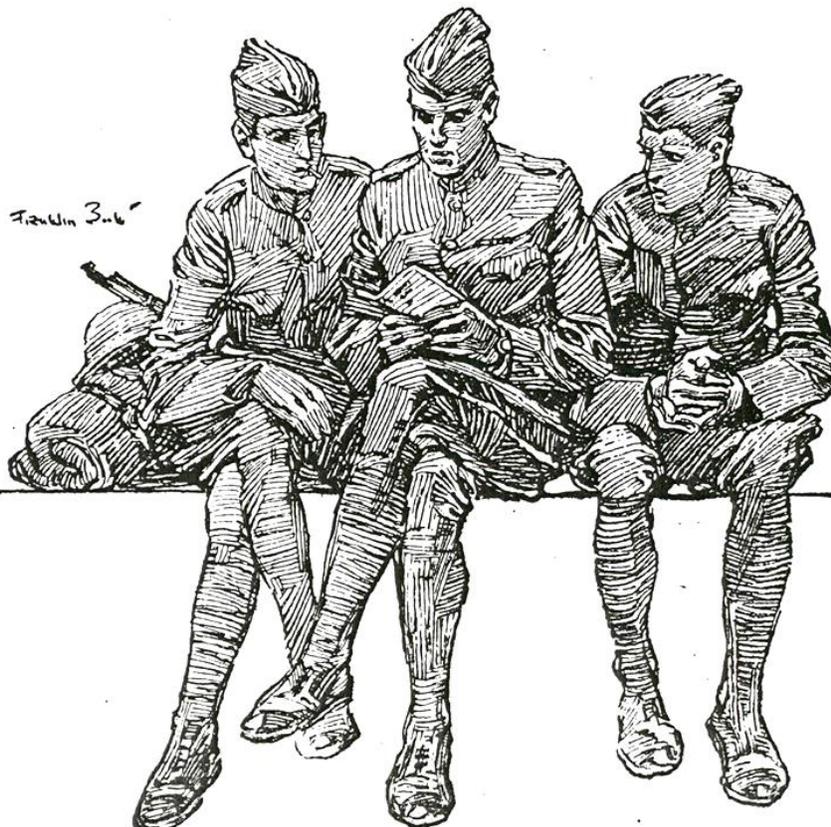


A History
of the
U.S. Army
Motor Transport Corps

Through the Service record of
Wilhelm "Bim" August Heineman
American Expeditionary Forces

World War I
1917-1919





Wilhelm "Bim" August Heineman





FORWARD
An Abbreviated History
of the
First World War

The Great European War had been in progress more than two years and a half when, on April 6, 1917, President Wilson signed the resolution that recognized a state of war existed between the United States and Germany, and the Great American Republic threw its power and influence on the side of the Allies. Since that day, America was busy training an army, and organizing her industries and her resources to make them effective in the great cause she had espoused. The American navy had already rendered great service in the war against submarines and in convoying transports and supply ships to Europe. American soldiers reached Europe in June and began their trench warfare in October.

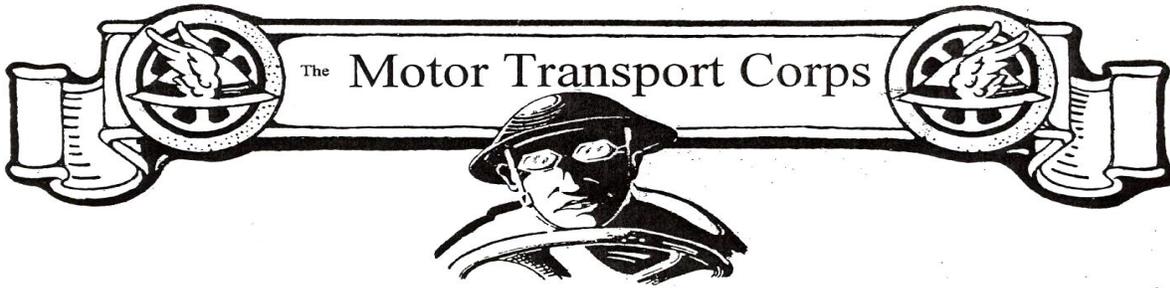


The world conflict in which the United States took an important part was comparatively greater than any previous wars. On June 28, 1914, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated at Sarajevo, Bosnia. Austria claimed that the murder was committed by Serbian revolutionists and sent an ultimatum to that country with terms impossible of acceptance, July 23, 1914, and on July 28 declared war. Montenegro came into the war as the ally of Serbia. Russia at once protested against Austria's action and mobilized her troops. On August 1, 1914, Germany an ally of Austria declared war on Russia, and on August 3 upon France. On the same day she began her invasion of Belgium. Great Britain joined with France and Russia as an ally declaring war on Germany on August 4 and upholding the neutrality of Belgium, which she was pledged to defend. Belgium, invaded Germany, stubbornly defended her neutrality, but was soon overmastered by the superior number of Germany's invading army.

Great Britain's self-governing colonies, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand, rallied to her support and won the admiration of the world by the promptness and vigor which they mobilized their forces and sent their troops to the great European battle fields. India and other parts of the Empire loyally responded to the calls for men. Turkey was already fighting for the Central Powers when she made formal entry into the war on November 23, 1914.

The year 1915 brought Portugal, Italy, and the little republic of San Marino to the side of the Allies, and Bulgaria to that of the Central Powers. In August 1916, Rumania declared war on Austria. In Greece, the provincial government of Venizelos issued a declaration of war on Germany and Bulgaria, while the King's party affected neutrality favorable to Germany.





Exerts for "The Steering Wheel" Vol. 1, no. 16, Dec. 25, 1918

Speed, rapidity won the war for the Allies. Speed, rapidity would not have been possible had it not been for the motor transportation of the different Armies of the Entente. What the Entente lacked in preparedness it had to make up for in speed.

The motor truck and the automobile played a bigger part in winning the war than any other one factor outside of combatant troops. Paris would have fallen in the first months of the war, had not General Gallieni, military governor of Paris, thrown every available motor vehicle to the front loaded with troops, and so checked in time the oncoming Germans. Again, before Paris, four years later, motor transportation turned the tide by rushing troops into the Chateau-Thierry sector.

The First American motor transportation landed in France in May 1917. Between that time and the close of the war, the Motor Transport Corps was organized and equipped with more than seventy thousand vehicles of all kinds, and was functioning not only on the front lines, but in every nook and corner of France where it was necessary to carry men and supplies. This in spite of the fact that when war was declared there was practically no organized motor transportation in the United States Army.

Other arms and branches of the service came to France fairly well equipped and trained. The Motor Transport Service units arrived in France during the first few months of the war lacking equipment, and for the most part but partially trained, and yet the Motor Transport Corps (or the Motor Transport Service as it was known for so many months) at all times functioned with the same precision as other arms and branches of the service far better qualified by preliminary organization to properly fulfill their duties.

From the minute that American troops landed in France, rapidity in transportation was imperative, and this became more pronounced as more and more men began going up to the battle line. French railroads could not be entirely depended upon for rapidity of movement, either of troops or supplies, for the reason that they were overburdened, and at the front it was impossible to extend through the fire zone.

The major portion of the rapidity so necessary in the successful pursuance of the war, therefore, developed upon motor transportation, and motor transportation came through with the goods, in spite of the fact that the Motor Transportation Service was from the start more handicapped in organization than any other arm or branch of the service.

The American Army could, in fact, have played no conspicuous part in the war had it not been for motor transportation, and motor transportation would have been ineffective but for the splendid organization behind the motor transportation, known as the Motor Transport Service, or later, Corps.

At base ports, night and day, motor trucks were carrying food, clothing, ammunition and every conceivable kind of supply from vessels to railroad trains and to warehouses, and from warehouses to encampments and to hospitals.



Motor trucks were carrying supplies of all kinds overland from base ports into the Advance Section. Motor trucks were carrying every conceivable kind of material and supply from point to point when they were most needed. They were carrying cannon and tanks. They were even carrying horses and mules, and towing cannon behind them in order to expedite artillery movements. There was not one single activity in the United States Army that the motor truck did not in some way touch.

The fighting men won the war, but fighting men could not have fought in France in any great numbers had it not been for the motor truck, for, with the facilities at hand in the way of shipping, it would have been physically impossible to have sent over two million men to France and to have kept them supplied, with wagon transportation only to depend upon. Wagon transportation is slow and too much of its tonnage has to be used to carry subsistence for the animals that draw it.

It is safe to say that, had the motor truck not been in existence, the United States could not have sent to France and maintained them there, more than 400,000 soldiers during the period in which 2,000,000 were sent over. There was not one day of the time in which these 2,000,000 men were there that they lacked in anything necessary for their welfare and comfort. The motor truck can be largely thanked for this.

If Germany could have sunk every ship carrying motor transportation, and therefore have prevented any trucks from arriving in France, American soldiers would have been but a very negligible quantity in the war.





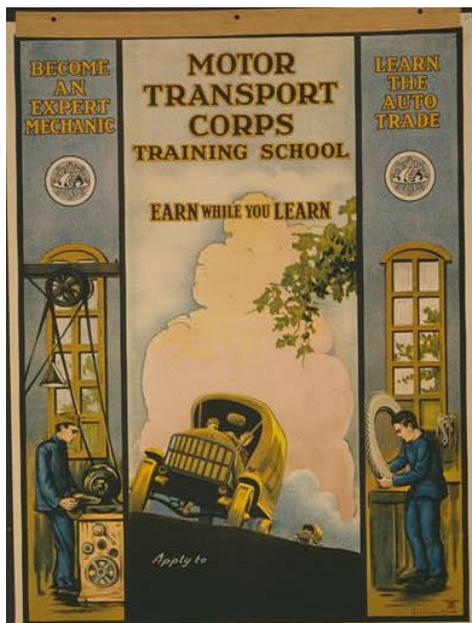
Important Dates in the History of the Motor Transportation Corps.

The following is a chronology of important dates in the history of the organization of the Motor Transport Corps.

May 27, 1917 – The first overseas motor transportation unit, called the Motor Truck Group, First American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F), was organized at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. It consisted of headquarters, for motor truck companies and a machine shop unit, and was placed under the command of Captain (later Colonel) William H. Winters. Most of the men in this organization, which consisted of Motor Truck Companies Nos. 101, 102, 103 and 104, and the Motor Park Company, were trained men, and had seen service in motor transportation with the American Punitive Expedition in Mexico.

June 11, 1917 – The first motor truck group as mentioned above arrived in New York for embarkation to France.

July 23, 1917 – Major (later Colonel) F.H. Pope arrived in Paris with General Rodgers, later Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F., and a month alter Major Pope was appointed Officer in Charge of Transportation under the Chief Quartermaster. He later became the first Director of the Motor Transport Service.



September 5, 1917 – General Pershing sent an informal memorandum to the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F, signifying his desire to have all motor transportation placed under the Chief Quartermaster.

October 16, 1917 – The first motor transportation park in France was organized as Base station No. 1.

January 10, 1918 – Major (later Colonel) Brainerd Taylor, C.A.C., was appointed Motor Transport officer of the Advance Section.

January 17, 1918 – Colonel H.A. Hegeman and his technical staff arrived in France for the organization and development of repair and machine shop organizations. This is the unit in which W.A. Heineman was detached.

March 10, 1918 – The offices of the Director of the Motor Transport Corps were moved from the city in which the General Headquarters (G.H.Q) of the A.E.F. were located to Advanced Park Overhaul (A.P.O.) 717.

April 18, 1918 – General Orders No 38 War Department, were issued. This was the order creating a Motor Transport Service as part of the Quartermaster Corps and defining the duties of the Service.

May 11, 1918 – General Orders No 74, G.H.Q., A.E.F., were issued. This was the order that turned over the Motor Transport Service and all motor driven vehicles of cargo and passenger carrying types, and giving the Motor Transport Service technical supervision over motor vehicles of all other types.

July 5, 1918 – First course at the new Motor Transport School started.

July 10, 1918 – Brigadier General M.. Walker, Engineers, became director of the Motor Transport Service.

November 11, 1918 – Armistice was signed and the Motor Transport Corps reorganized its work to meet new conditions.

The Motor Transport Reconstruction Park

From "The Steering Wheel" Vol. 1, no. 16, Dec. 25, 1918

Standing out sharply as one of the marvels of the rapidly organized Army, and as evidence of America's resolve to spare no trouble or expense in bring the War to a victorious end, was the Motor Transport Reconstruction Park, at A.P.O. 772 where W.A. Heineman was detached.

Unique as being the only organization of its kind, this Unit fathered by Colonel H.A. Hegeman, whose creative ability and methods of efficiency call for loud praise in achieving a work of such gigantic proportions.

Working against great odds, encountering obstacles at every stage, the Motor Transport Reconstruction Park eventually emerged from its difficulties, a beehive of industry, a project worthy of the greatest genius.

Covering an area of approximately a thousand acres, the plan was equipped with the most modern machinery known to the manufacturing world, ranging from the most delicate of scientific instruments, used in making tests of every nature, to massive, awe-inspiring drop hammers and presses, capable of furnishing pressure of hundreds of tons.





To these premises were brought the last remains of vehicles of all classes, some having come to grief through mishap on the road; others having just naturally worn out their usefulness through long stretches of incessant activity. In all cases the vehicles which reached this park were so badly out of commission as to be beyond the repair capacity of Service parks or Overhaul parks.

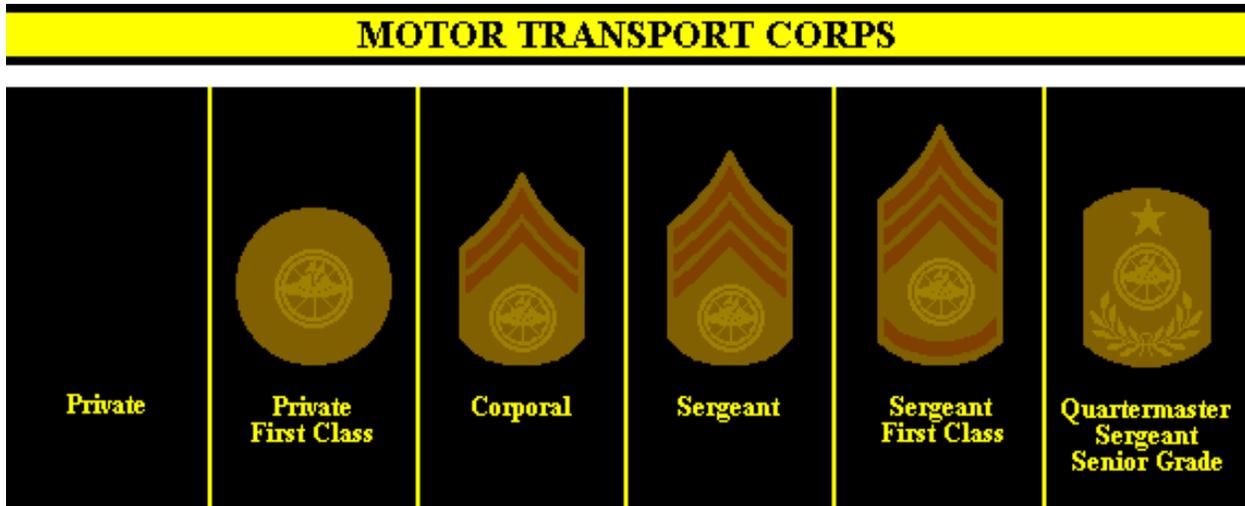
Those which could not be put into condition by the replacement of worn-out or broken parts were salvaged, the parts which were capable of being utilized were assembled, and from the remains of a great number of demolished vehicles, there emerged a number of reconstructed engines of travel and transport.

The work of salvage, repair, and reconstruction was not confined solely to camions and motor however, and the plant was the source of a large variety of newly created articles and newly invented machinery that unlimited space would be required to attempt to describe the activities of this vast project.

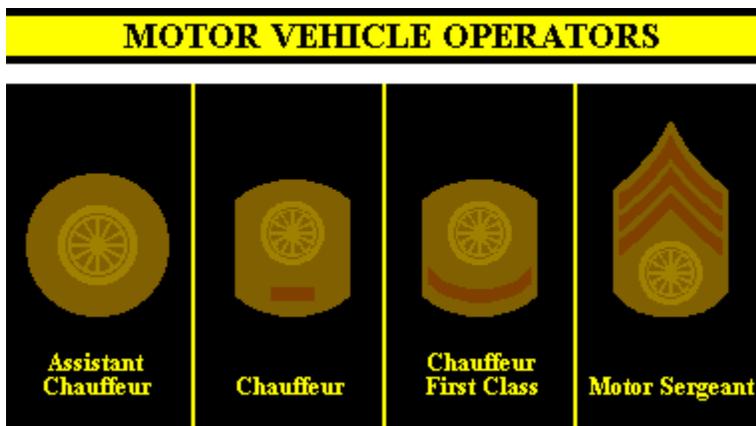
In all, the Motor Transport Reconstruction Park proved to be one of the indispensable factors of the MTC success and played a no mean part in the efficiency of the A.E.F.

Transportation Corp Insignia

The branch insignia for the Motor Transport Corps consisted of a winged helmet imposed on a spoked wheel. The various rank insignia consisted of combinations of the branch insignia (embroidered in gold) chevrons, and rockers (embroidered in red). There was no rank insignia for Private. Private First Class consisted of an embroidered branch insignia on a round patch. Corporal was designated by the branch insignia topped with two chevrons; Sergeant with three chevrons; Sergeant First Class with three chevrons and one rocker; and Quartermaster Sergeant Senior Grade was designated by the branch insignia over crossed olive branches and topped by a single star (all embroidered in gold).

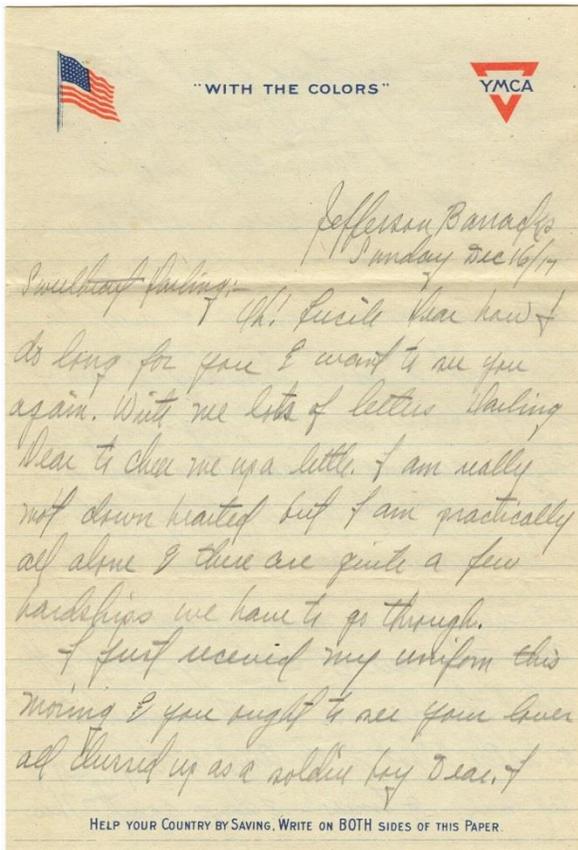


“Wound Chevrons” were gold embroidered patches worn point down on the right lower sleeve, one for each wound. “Overseas Chevrons” were metallic gold, worn point down on the left lower sleeve, one for each six months of service outside the United States – one light blue chevron worn point down on the left lower sleeve for less than six months of service. The “Honorable Discharge Chevron” was red, worn point up on the middle left sleeve. Upon discharge, W.A. Heineman wore the Quartermaster Sergeant Senior Grade insignia, three “Overseas Chevrons”, the “Honorable Discharge Chevron”, service ribbon with two stars, and the 2nd Army Corp insignia.





Letters Home

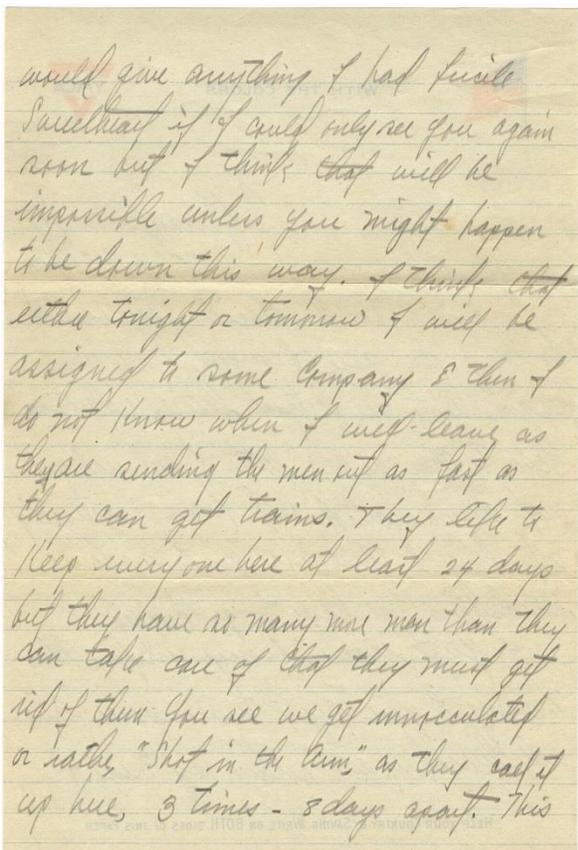


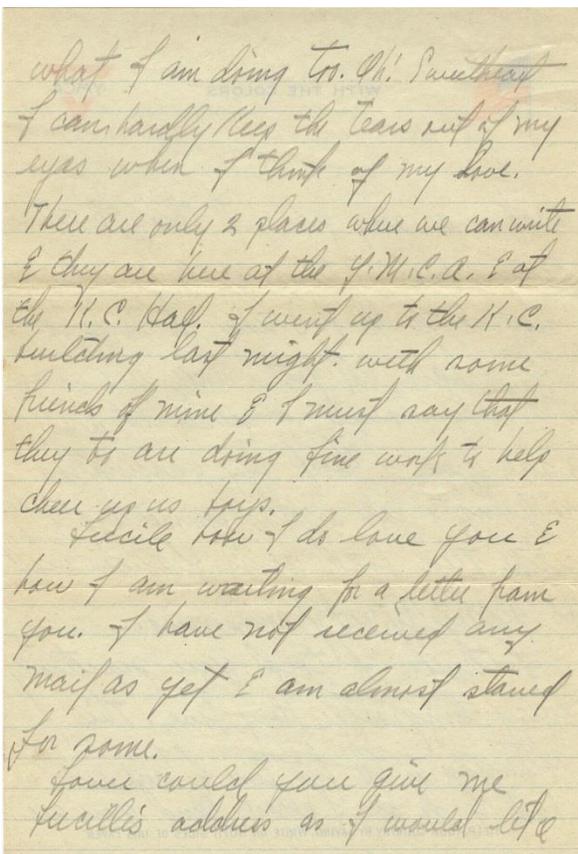
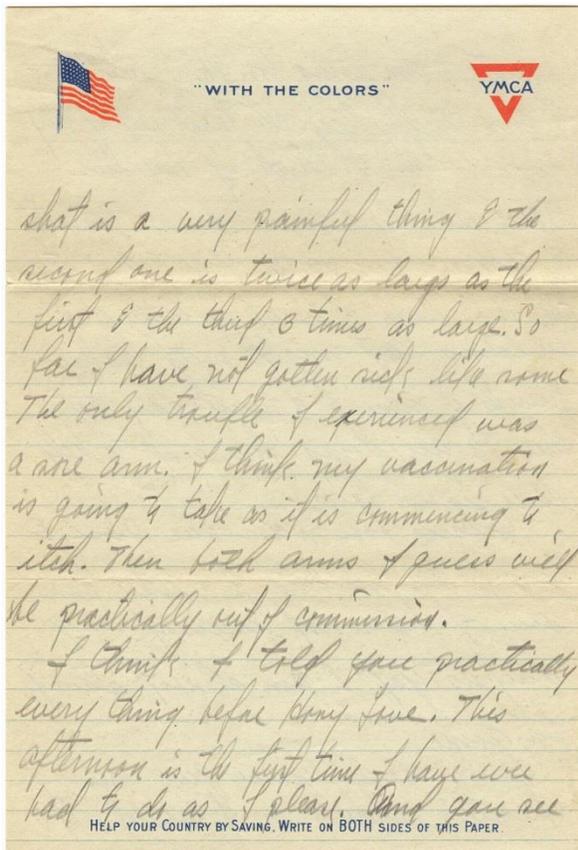
Jefferson Barracks
Sunday Dec 16, 1917

Sweetheart Darling;

Oh Lucile Dear how I do long for you & want to see you again! Write me lots of letters Darling Dear to cheer me up a little. I am really not down hearted but I am practically all alone & there are quite a few hardships we have to go through.

I just received my uniform this morning & you ought to see your lover all dressed up as a soldier boy Dear. I would give anything I had Lucile Sweetheart if I could only see you again soon but I think that will be impossible unless you might happen to be down this way. I think that either tonight or tomorrow I will be assigned to some company & then I do not know when I will leave as they are sending the men out as fast as they can get trains. They like to keep everyone here at least 24 days but they have so many more men than they can take care of that they must get rid of them. You see we get inoculated or rather "Shot in the Arm" as they call it up here, 3 times - 8 days apart. This





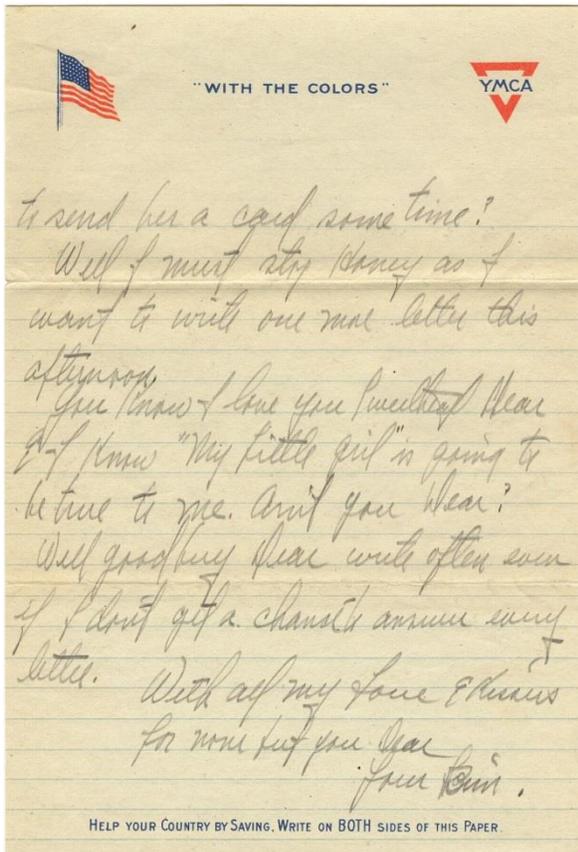
shot is a very painful thing & the second one is twice as large as the first & the third 3 times as large. So far I have not gotten sick like some. The only trouble I experienced was a sore arm. I think my vaccination is going to take as it is commencing to itch. Then both arms & guess will be practically out of commission.

I think I told you practically everything before Honey love. This afternoon is the first time I have ever had to do as I please. And you see what I am doing too. Oh! Sweetheart I can hardly keep the tears out of my eyes when I think of my love.

There are only 2 places where we can write & they are here at the Y.M.C.A. & at the K.C. Hall. I went up to the K.C. (?) last night with some friends of mine & I must say that they too are doing fine work help cheer up us boys.

Lucile how I do love you & how I a waiting for a letter from you. I have not received any mail as yet & am almost starved for some.

Lover could you give me Lucille's address as I would like



to send her a card some time?

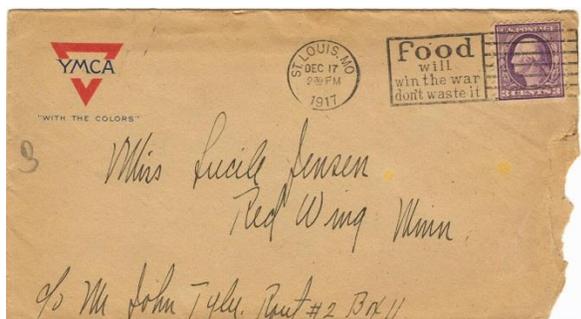
Well I must stop Honey as I want to write one more letter this afternoon.

You know I love you Sweetheart Dear & I know "My Little Girl" is going to be true to me. Aren't you Dear?

Well good buy Dear write often even if I don't get a chance to answer every letter.

With all my Love & Kisses
For none but you Dear

Your Bim





"WITH THE COLORS"



Jefferson Barracks,
St. Louis, Mo.
Dec 19/17.

Lucile Sweetheart:-
I did not even have time to go up to the P.O. today to get my mail as it takes about an hour & a half to get it. There is always a line about 2 blocks long. I have been on duty since 6 this morning until 6:30 tonight. That is the reason I could not get my mail. Tomorrow I go on at 5 o'clock, but will try get excused for a couple of hours. Love Darling

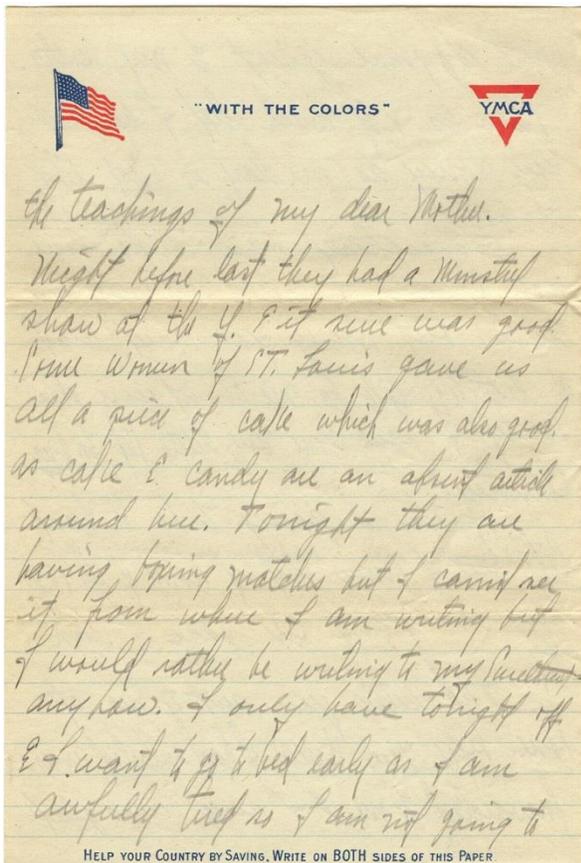
HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER

Jefferson Barracks
St. Louis, MO.
Dec 19, 1917

Lucile Sweetheart;

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the teachings of my dear Mother.
Night before last they had a Minstrel
show at the Y. & it sure was good.
Some women of St. Louis gave us
all a piece of cake which was also good.
as cake & candy are an absent article
around here. Tonight they are
having boxing matches but I can't see
it from where I am writing but
I would rather be writing to my
Sweetheart any how. I only have tonight
off & I want to go to bed early as I am
awfully tired as I am not going to

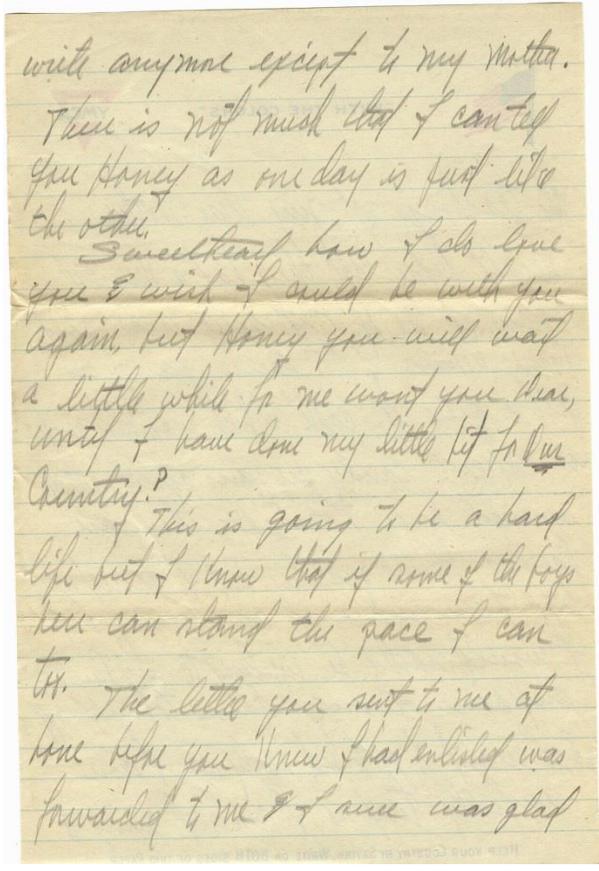
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but I would rather be writing to my
Sweetheart any how. I only have tonight
off & I want to go to bed early as I am
awfully tired so I am not going to write
any more except to my Mother.

There is not much that I can tell you
Honey as one day is just like the other.

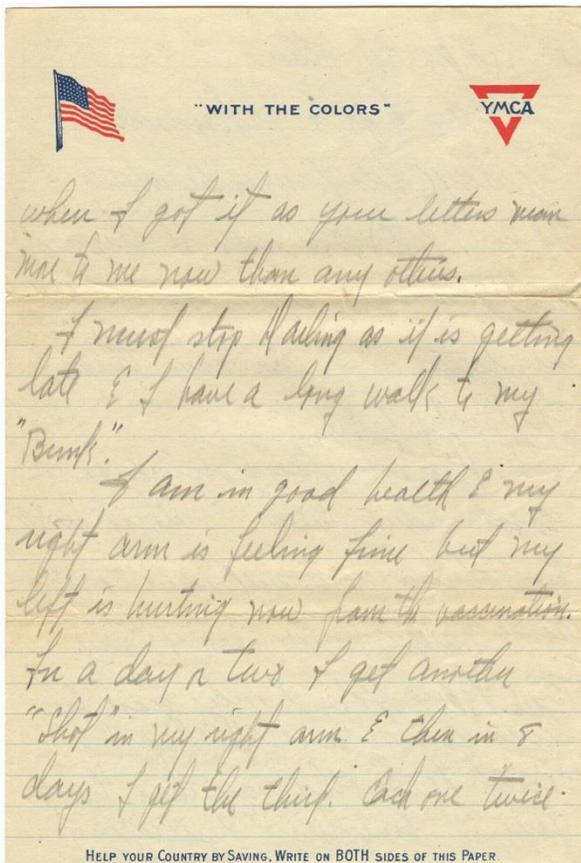
Sweetheart how I do love you & wish I
could be with you again, but honey you
will wait a little while for me won't you
Dear, until I have done my little bit for
Our Country?

This is going to be a hard life but I know
that if some of the boys here can stand
the pace I can too.

The letter you sent to me at home before
you knew I had enlisted was forwarded
to me & I sure was glad



write anymore except to my Mother.
There is not much that I can tell
you Honey as one day is just like
the other.
Sweetheart how I do love
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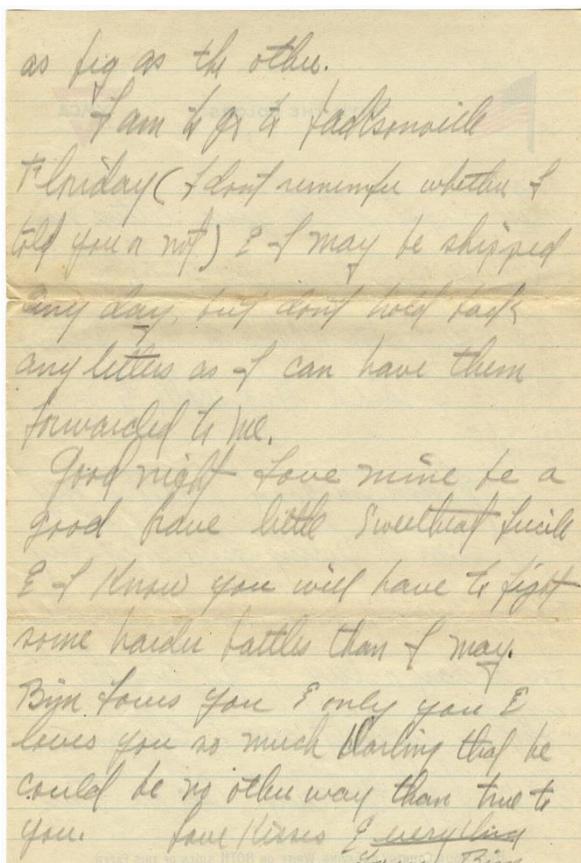


when I got it as your letters mean so much now than any others.

I must stop Darling as it is getting late & I have a long walk to my "Bunk."

I am in good health & my right arm is feeling fine but my left is hurting now from the vaccination. In a day or two I get another "Shot" in my right arm & then in 8 days I get the third. Each one twice as big as the other.

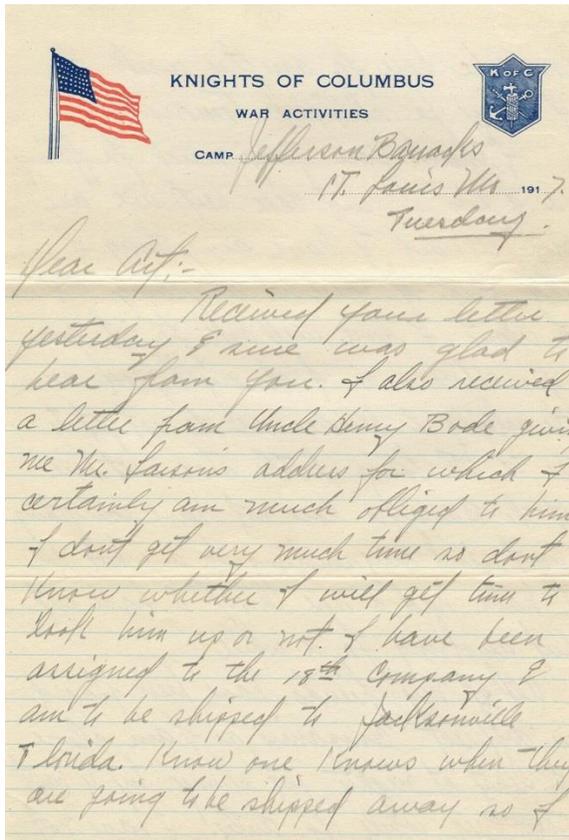
I am to go to Jacksonville Friday (I don't remember whether I told you or not) & I may be shipped any day, but don't hold back any letters as I can have them forwarded to me.



Good night Love Mine be a good brave little Sweetheart Lucile & I know you will have to fight some harder battles than I may.

Bim loves you & only you & loves you so much Darling that he could be no other way than true to you.

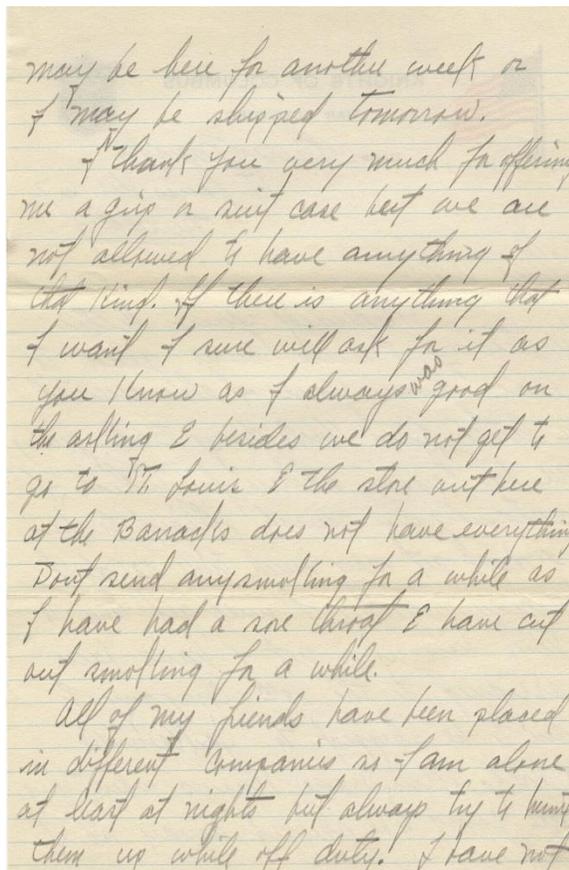
Love Kisses & everything
Your Bim



CAMP Jefferson Barracks
St. Louis, Mo 1917
Tuesday

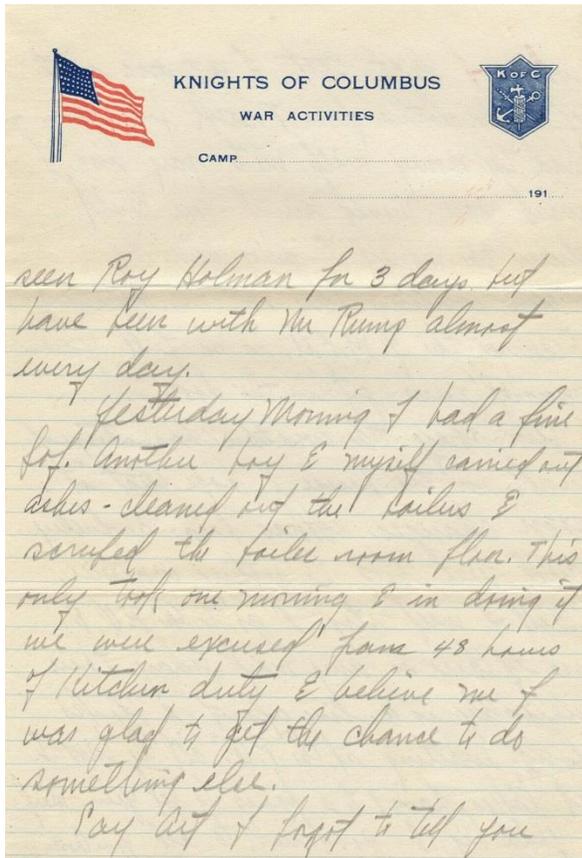
Dear Art; (Wilhelm's brother)

Received your letter yesterday & sure was glad to hear from you. I also received a letter from Uncle Henry Bode giving me Mr. Larson's address for which I certainly am much obliged to him. I don't get very much time so don't know whether I will get time to look him up or not. I have been assigned to the 18th Company & am to be shipped to Jacksonville, Florida. Know one knows when they are going to be shipped away so I may be here for another week or I may be shipped tomorrow.



I thank you very much for offering me a grip or suit case but we are not allowed to have anything of that kind. If there is anything that I want I sure will ask for it as you know as I always was good on the asking & besides we do not get to go to St. Louis & the store out here at the Barracks does not have everything. Don't send any smoking for a while as I have had a sore throat & have cut out smoking for a while.

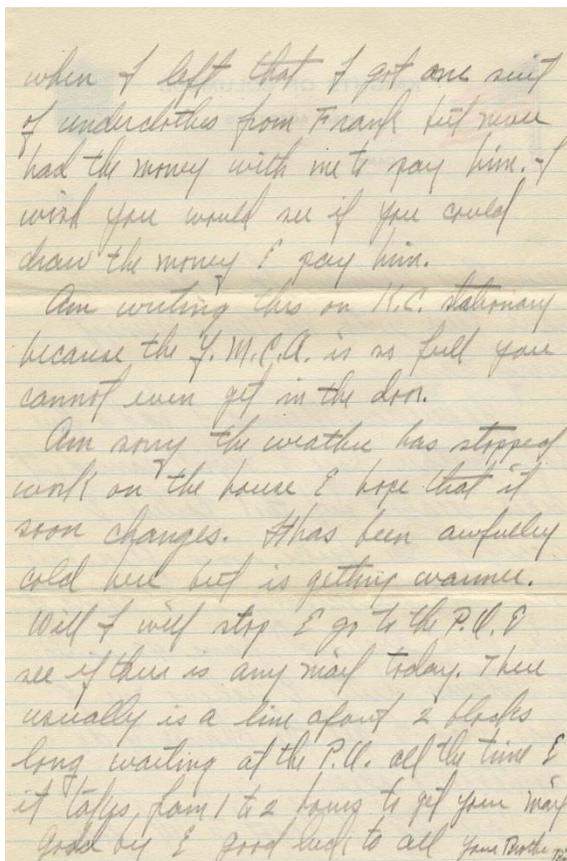
All of my friends have been placed in different companies so I am alone at least at nights but always try to hunt them up while off duty. I have not



seen Roy Holman for 3 days but have been with Mr Rump almost every day.

Yesterday morning I had a fine lot. Another boy & myself carried out ashes – cleaned out the boilers & scrubbed the boiler room floor. This only took one morning & in doing it we were excused from 48 hours of kitchen duty & believe me I was glad to get the change to do something else.

Say Art I forgot to tell you when I left that I got one suit of underclothes from Frank but never had the money with me to pay him. I wish you would see if you could draw the money & pay him.



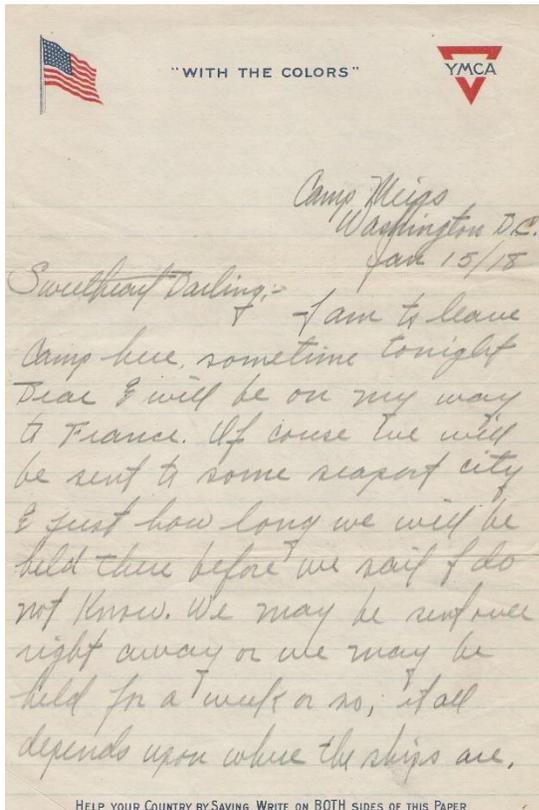
Am writing this on K.C. stationery because the Y.M.C.A. is so full you cannot even get in the door.

Am sorry the weather has stopped work on the house & hope that it soon changes. It has been awfully cold here but is getting warmer. Well I will stop & go to the P.O.E. see if there is any mail there today. There usually is a line about 2 blocks long waiting at the P.O. all the time & it takes from 1 to 2 hours to get your mail.

Good by & good luck to all.

Your Brother

Bim



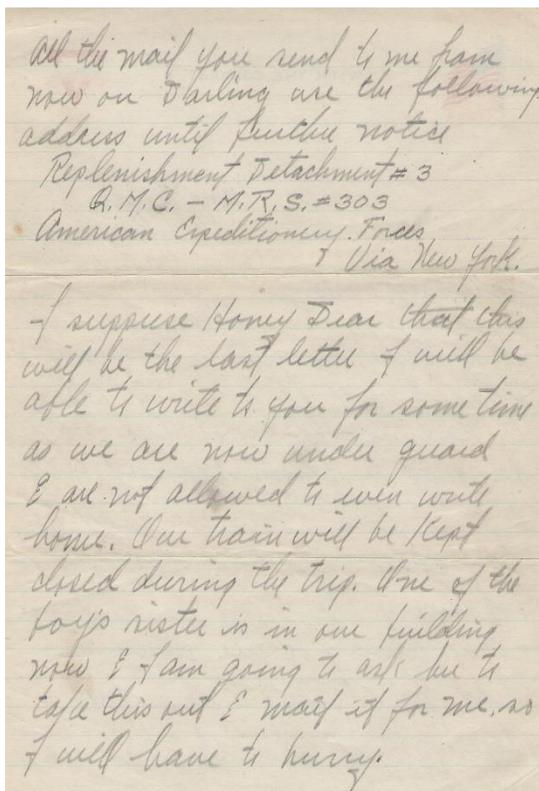
Camp Meigs
Washington D.C.
January 15, 1918

Sweetheart Darling;

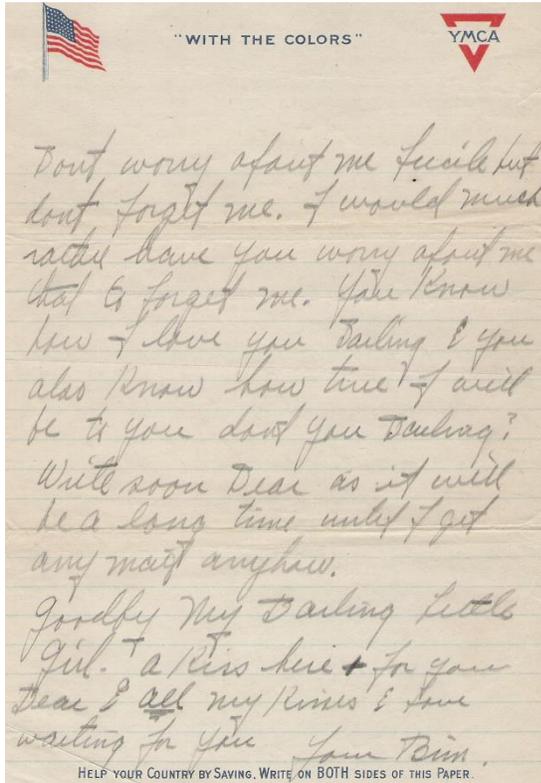
I am to leave Camp here sometime tonight Dear & will be on my way to France. Of course we will be sent to some seaport city & just how long we will be held there before we sail I do not know. We may be sent over right away or we may be held for a week or so, it all depends upon where the ships are.

All the mail you send to me from now on Darling use the following address until further notice.

Replenishment Detachment #3
Q.M.C. - M.R.S. #303
American Expeditionary Forces
Via New York



I suppose Honey Dear that this will be the last letter I will be able to write to you for some time as we are now under guard & are not allowed to even write home. Our train will be kept closed during the trip. One of the boys' sister is in our building now & I am going to ask her to take this out & mail it for me, so I will have to hurry



Don't worry about me Lucile but don't forget me. I would much rather have you worry about me than to forget me. You know how I love you Darling & you also know how true I will be to you don't you Darling?

Write soon Dear as it will be a long time until I get any mail anyhow.

Goodbye My Darling Little Girl. A kiss here + for you Dear & all my kisses & love waiting for you.

Your Bim



Postcard to John Henry Heineman Jr. – Wilhelm's brother



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

19

Darling Sweetheart:-
This is my first chance for some time that I have had to write to you & I want to let you know that I arrived over here all O.K. I do not know what I am going to write as I am not allowed to tell you where I am, what I am doing, or where I expect to go. All I can say is that I am well &

am getting along fine. Of course lots of the work, etc is entirely new to me but I think in a short time I will be getting along alright. I sure am seeing lots over here & someday I will have a whole lot of things to tell you Dear. I have not received a letter from you for a long time. Dearest I am just dying to hear from you.

I wish I could write more to you Lucile Darling & tell you some of my experiences but the censorship is very strict & besides I would not

March 4, 1918

Darling Sweetheart;

This is the first chance for some time that I have had to write to you & I want to let you know that I arrived here all O.K. I do not know what I am going to write as I am not allowed to tell you where I am, what I am doing, or where I expect to go. All I can say is that I am well & am getting along fine. Of course lots of the work, etc is entirely new to me but I think in a short time I will be getting along alright. I sure am seeing lots over here & someday I will have a whole lot of things to tell you Dear. I have not received a letter from you for a long time dearest I am just dying to hear from you.

I wish I could write more to you Lucile Darling & tell you some of my experiences but the censorship is very strict & besides I would not

want to give out any valuable information.
Write soon Dear & remember I love you dearly & you alone, I hope it will not be a very long time until I can be with you again.
With love & lots of kisses
Your Bim.
My correct address.
Pvt. W. A. HEINEMAN
Q.M.C.
#303 MECHANICAL REPAIR SHOP
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

want to give out any valuable information.

Write soon Dear & remember I love you dearly & you alone, & hope it will not be a very long time until I can be with you again.

With love & lots of kisses
Your Bim

My correct Address
PVT. W.A. HEINEMAN
Q.M.C.
#303 Mechanics repair Shop
American Expeditionary Forces



Somewhere in France
March 20, 1918

My
M.H.
Somewhere in France
March 20/18
Dearest Sweetheart:-
I only have about ten minutes
in which to write tonight. The lights are out & as mail
is collected in the morning I will do the best I can.
I received two letters from you the other day & sure
was glad to get them. The Valentine certainly was fine
& I only wish the verse could come true some time soon.
I also got a letter from Poley #1 & sometime when you
write to her I wish you would thank her for me because I
do not know when I can write to her as we are only
allowed 2 letters per week & I send one to Mother & one to
you. She asked me if I liked candy. You tell her
just how much I do like it. Especially home made.
Please dear you must write to me often for you
do not know how I wait for your letters & how
much better they make me feel when I read them.

Dearest Sweetheart;

I only have about ten minutes in which to write tonight before lights out & as mail is collected in the morning I will do the best I can. I received two letters from you the other day & sure was glad to get them. The valentine certainly was fine & I only wish the verse could come true some time soon.

I also got a letter from Poley #1 & sometime when you write to her I wish you would thank her for me because I do not know when I can write to her as we are only allowed 2 letters per week & I send one to Mother & one to you. She asked me if I liked candy. You tell her just how much I do like it. Especially home made.

Lucile Dear, you must write to me often for you do not know how I wait for your letters & how much better they make me feel when I read them.

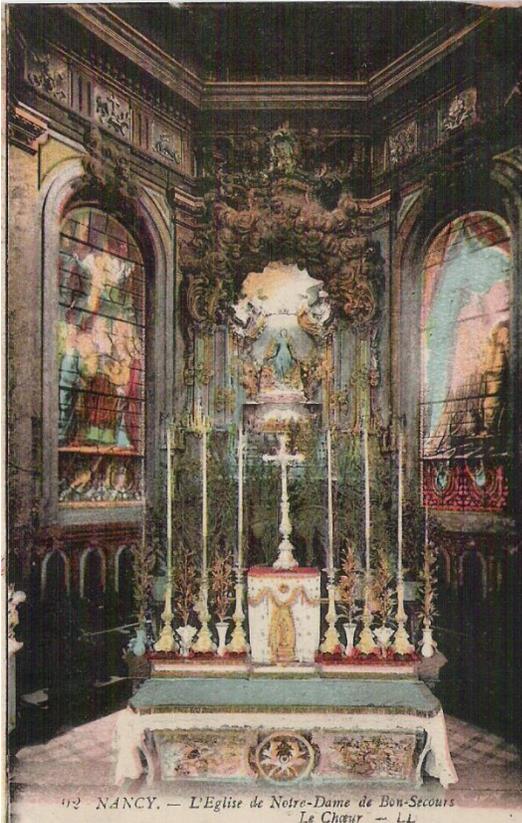
I wish Darling that sometime you would send me
a small picture of yourself as I want to have one & also
I want to show it to the boys here because I have been
telling them so much about my dear old girl that they
are anxious to see how really good looking you
are.
I must stop dear as taps are blowing. I will
write my first next letter to you & will try to make it better
but I don't want you to think I ever forget about you.
With love & lots of kisses
Yours & yours only
Bim
Prof. W. G. Heineman
H. M. C. M. R. S. #303
Replenishment Detachment #2.
A. P. O. 708
American Expeditionary Force

I wish Darling that sometime you would send me a small picture of yourself as I want to have one & also I want to show it to the boys here because I have been telling them so much about my Dear Old Girl that they are anxious to see how really good looking you are.

I must stop Dear as taps are blowing. I will write my first next letter to you & will try to make it better but I don't want you to think I ever forget about you.

With Love and Kisses
Yours & Yours only

Bim



Dear Mother;

This gives you an idea of what the interior of some of the churches are like here.

Bim



To John Henry Heineman Jr.

Would like very much to get a letter from you sometime.

Bim



This is a picture of the French barracks we were in part of the time that we were located in Nevers.

Bim



Entrance to French Barracks shops etc. are also located inside these walls. Just happened to find these cards among some in my trunk.

Bim

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of Private Wilhelm H. Heineman, Quartermaster Corps, National Army I do hereby appoint him † Sergeant (Temporary) 30ad Q.M. Mech. Rp. Shop of the ‡ National Army of the United States, to rank as such from the ninth day of August one thousand nine hundred and eighteen. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of* Sergeant by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Sergeant. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from his Superior Officers and noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War.

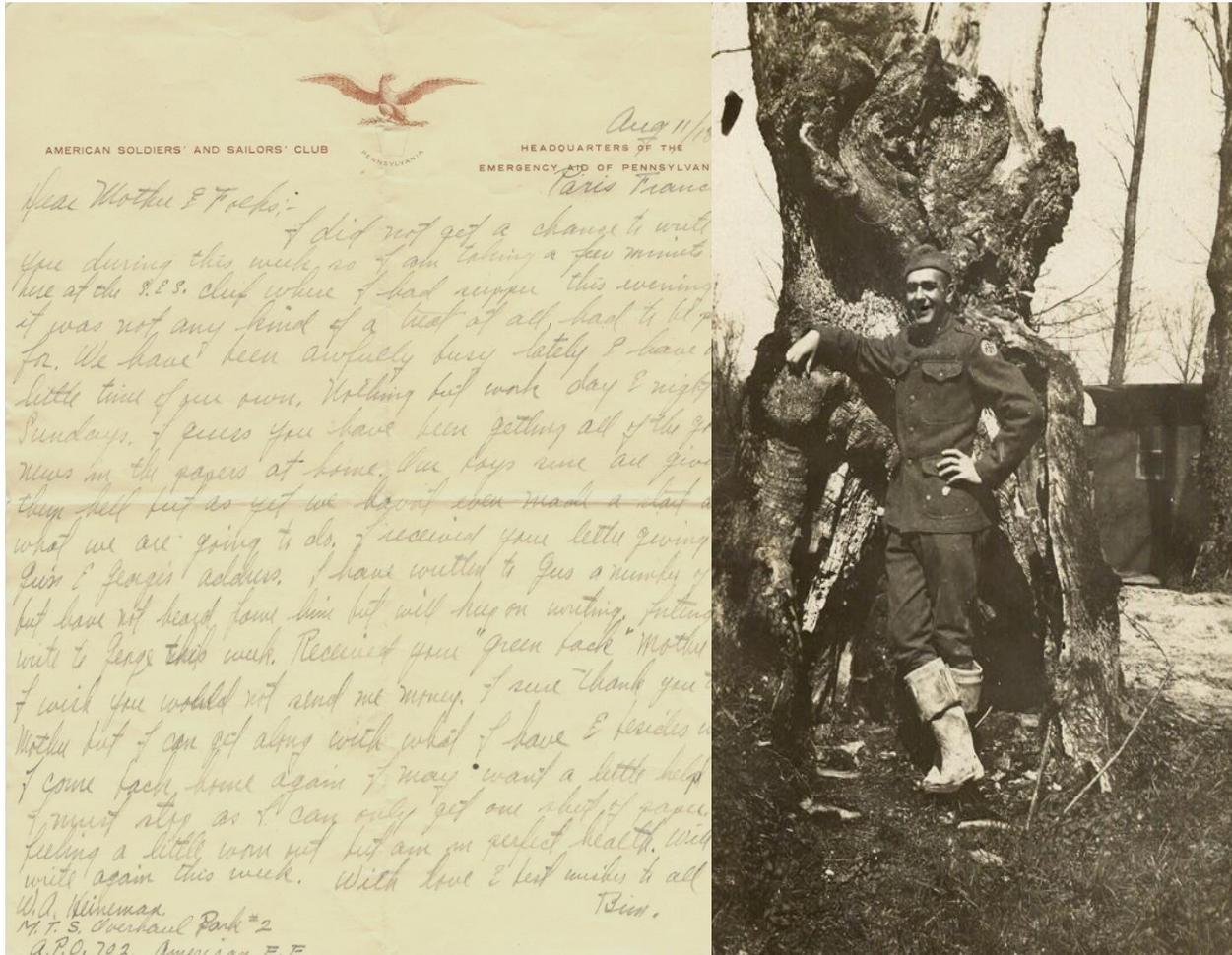
Given under my hand at U.S.A.P.O 112, France this ninth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Carl Rosemer
Capt. Q.M.C.N.H. Commanding, 30ad Q.M. Mech. Rp. Shop

Form No. 152—A. G. O.
Ed. Aug. 16-17—500,000.

* Insert grade.
† Insert grade and company and regiment or corps or department; e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry," "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps," "Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department."
‡ Insert "Regular Army," "National Army," "National Guard," "Regular Army Reserve," or "Enlisted Reserve Corps," as the case may be.

3-4788



Aug 11/18
Paris France

Dear Mother & Folks;

I did not get a chance to write to you during this week so I am taking a few minutes time here at the S. & S. Club where I had supper this evening. No it was not any kind of a treat at all, had to be paid for. We have been awfully busy lately & have very little time of our own. Nothing but work day & night & Sundays. I guess you have been getting all of the good news in the papers at home. Our boys sure are giving them hell but as yet we haven't even made a start as to what we are going to do. I received your letter giving me Gus' & George's address. I have written to Gus a number of times but have not heard from him but will keep on writing. Intend to write George this week. Received your "green back" Mother but I wish you would not send me money. I sure thank you though Mother but I can get along with what I have & besides when I come back home again I may want a little help then. I must stop as I can only get one sheet of paper. Am feeling a little worn out but am in perfect health. Will write again this week. With love & best wishes to all.

Bim.

W.A. Heineman
M.T.S. Overhaul Park #2
A.P.O. 702 American E.F



Sept 5, 1918 Paris France

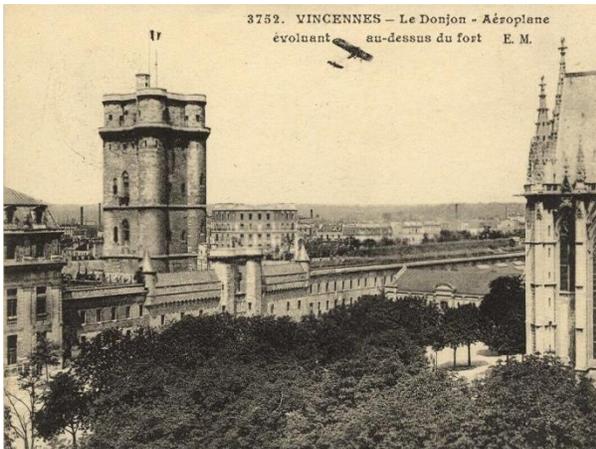
This is a view in a park in a small place just outside Paris. Was there last Sunday afternoon.



Sept. 5, 1918

To J. H. Heineman Jr.

Why don't you write me sometime? Had a letter from "Uncle" today & he said you were getting to be a big boy. Keep it up.



Paris France Sept 5, 1918

To Mrs. J. H. Heineman

How do you like the way the papers read now? I guess the Germans are on the run now.

Love



Sept 5, 1918

To Mrs. J. H. Heineman

Dear Mother;

Received your letter containing the pictures. Sure glad to get them. Will try to write in the next day or so. Feeling good.

MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS
OVERHAUL PARK NO. 2
USAPO 702, France.

11 September 1918.

From: Wilhelm A. Heineman Sergeant Q.M.C. #226690,
Mechanical Repair Shop #302.

To: Director Motor Transport Corps. USAPO 717
(Thru channels)

Subject: Training for Commission.

1. It is respectfully requested that the writer be sent to the Motor Transport Corps school for instruction. He desires training for commission for Overhaul Park service.

2. Inclosed are following letters:

Captain G. B. McCoy, Q.M.C.
1st Lieut. H. G. Young, Q.M.C.
2d Lieut. W. A. Holzhauser, Q.M.C.
Mr. W. H. Carter, President, Carter Mfg. Co.
Keokuk, Ia.

4 incls.

MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS
OVERHAUL PARK NO. 2
USAPO 702, FRANCE

11 September 1918

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Keokuk, Ia.

4 incls.

MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS
OVERHAUL PARK # 2
A.P.O. # 702.

September 11, 1918.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have known the bearer, Sergeant W. A. HEINEMAN, for the past two months, during which time I have had occasion to use him in various capacities in the mechanical line, both practical and in a technical way; he has made good on every occasion and is a man whom absolute dependance can be placed in. He is sober, courteous and attentive to his duties. I take pleasure in recommending him for the position which he seeks.

OVERHAUL PARK # 2,
A.P.O. 702
A.E.F.

September 11, 1918.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

1. Sergeant W. HEINEMAN, an enlisted man of Overhaul Park # 2, has had charge of all carpenter work here, both truck body repairs and plant construction, including drafting, for the past three months.

2. His soldierly qualities are far above the grade which he now holds and his aptitude and initiative are marked.

3. His technical training and ability in all lines of wood work are equaled by few men.

4. His character is excellent, his morals above reproach; his service here has been marked by a close attention to duty and an honest, thorough and fearless performance of the same.

5. I can recommend him without reservation as the highest type of officer-material, and especially so as an officer in any organization which has to do with construction body building or repairing.

Respectfully,

Howard G. Young

Howard G. YOUNG,
1st Lt. Q.M.C.,
Overhaul Park # 2.

G. B. McGary
G.B. MCGARY
Captain, Q.M.C.

COPM

MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS
OVERHAUL PARK # 2
A.P.O. # 702.

September 12, 1918.

From: Commanding Officer
To: C.O., M.T. Reconstruction Park, A.P.O. 772 (Thru M.T.O.,
District of Paris, A.P.O. # 702)
Subject: Commissions.

1. I am submitting herewith requests for permission to attend the Motor Transport Corps School at Decize from Sergeant E. Behlen of the M.R. Shop 301 and Sergeant W.A. Heineman of the M.R. Shop 302.

2. In view of the fact that they are your men, I do not care to put an indorsement on these requests giving them any flowery recommendations, but simply forward same to you, but I do feel that both requests are worthy of consideration.

3. Sergeant Behlan is a most reliable and trust worthy man. He has a very even disposition and has a good level head, is of excellent character and good morals. He has some mechanical ability, but I judge him to be much better qualified for an Administrative position. He has a good working knowledge of Army paper work, gained from his experience as a stenographer in your office, and in a like capacity, in addition to Assistant to the Chief Clerk and handling our files in this office. I should be more than willing to have him assigned to duty under me should he receive a commission. Personally I should recommend this man for a commission.

4. Sergeant Heineman is a man of enviable disposition, a gentleman in every respect, and is a man capable of doing some pretty big things. He has not only had some training as a draughtsman and engineer, but is fully capable of handling fair sized construction and of all men I should certainly recommend him for a commission.

ALLEN W. POLLITT
Captain, Q.M.C.

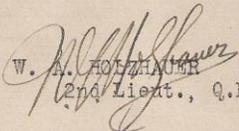
MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS,
OVERHAUL PARK # 2,
A. P. O. # 702.

September 12, 1918.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Sergeant W. A. Heineman has been under my personal observation for the past three months and I have found him a man of excellent character.

His mechanical ability and wide range of initiative makes him excellent material for the duties of an officer, and if favorably discharged from the M. T. C. school and commissioned, would be a very efficient one.


W. A. HOTTEL
2nd Lieut., Q.M.C.

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF PARIS
PARIS, FRANCE

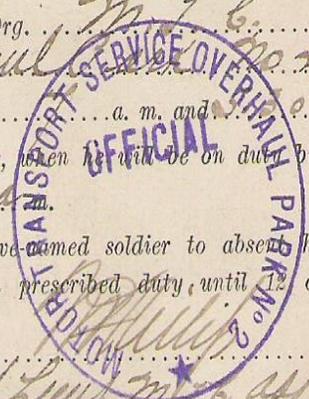
Date 10/2 1918

This is to certify that:

Name *M. J. Weinman*
Rank *Sergeant* Org.
is on duty in this city at *Overhaul* *M. J. Weinman*

He is on duty between the hours of a. m. and p. m.
every day except Sundays and holidays, when he will be on duty between
the hours of a. m. and p. m.

Permission is hereby granted above-named soldier to absent himself
from quarters each day when not on prescribed duty, until 12 o'clock
midnight.



M. J. Weinman
1st Lieut. M. J. Weinman



525. PARIS - Avenue des Champs-Élysées M. J.

To Miss Georgia Shell
I am no longer in Paris but still have a few cards left.
Perhaps you have heard of this Ave. as this is where
the "Swells" promenade. Of course I didn't.

Bim

Nov 16, 1918
Sampigny France

Dearest Sweetheart;

I just returned from a trip to Marseille on the Mediterranean Sea & is the first chance I have had to write to you Dear. There twenty one of us left here on the morning of the fourth to bring up the truck train. We had a fine trip & passed through some very beautiful country, as the route took us right up through the heart of the mountains. The weather in southern France is somewhat warmer than up here but the nights are rather chilly. We hit some awful cold and rainy weather & we slept in everything from a regular French bed to a hayloft. The trip had to be rushed through pretty hard so we did not get to stop at any place very long & had to rive all day & half of the night. We went down on the train & had one afternoon & night in Paris.

Everything seemed about the same there as when we were stationed there except that it is a little bright. We thought that perhaps we might have to drive on to Germany as an outfit was expected to move, but it was still here. Haven't heard a thing about moving yet except a few rumors & if most of the rumors are true I suppose we will stay over here for some time yet. Every man over here wants to get back home the worst way & it does not seem exactly right that those of us that have been here the longest should stay. We have done our little bit & it is now up to the people back home to do all they can to try to get us back soon. We are under an iron hand & cannot even express our own opinions, but believe me there will be a lot said when this gang does get back. I had some mail from you waiting for me when I got back but as they are at my barracks now I do not remember the dates so will write again tonight or tomorrow. Must stop now Darling as I got awfully busy. Be patient a little longer Sweetheart. Dear and Bim will be back again some of these fine days.

Nov 16/18
Sampigny France -
Dearest Sweetheart -
I just returned from a trip to Marseille on the Mediterranean Sea & is the first chance I have had to write to you Dear. There were twenty one of us left here on the morning of the fourth to bring up a truck train. We had a fine trip & passed through some very beautiful country, as the route took us right up through the heart of the mountains. The weather in southern France is somewhat warmer than up here but the nights are rather chilly. We hit some awful cold & rainy weather & we slept in everything from a regular French bed to a hayloft. The trip had to be rushed through pretty hard so we did not get to stop at any place very long & had to rive all day & half of the night. We went down on the train & had one afternoon & night in Paris. Everything seemed about the same there as when we were stationed there except that it is a little brighter. We thought that perhaps we might have to drive on to Germany as an outfit was expected to move, but it was still here. Haven't heard a thing about moving yet except a few rumors & if most of the rumors are true I suppose we will stay

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Love & kisses -
from Bim
Sergeant W. A. Pennington -
Det. M. P. 302
M. P. Advance Overland Park,
A. P. O. 747 American F. F.
Censored
M.P.C.



View taken at Marseille France showing part of Med Sea. Bim



German Prison camp at Sampigny France. Our shops in the background



American bar at Marseille France. I had a couple of drinks here. Bim



RR Station Sampigny France



View of our sheds. Sampigny France. Showing office where I spend part of my time.



German Prisoners Advance Overhaul Park T-1 Sampigny, France

4. 5. 1918
36 Taliers Street
 Dear Sir:-
 Am on my way
 St. Malo on a short vacation.
 Saw President Wilson in Paris
 today.
 You said
 President W. H. Taft
 Dec. 14, 1918
 Advance M. H. Overholt Park
 Apr. 14, 1918
 Mrs. Lucile Jensen
 224 Water Street
 Albert Lee Minn.
 U.S.A.



Le Président Woodrow WILSON à Paris - President Woodrow WILSON in Paris
 Décembre 1918
 Place de la Concorde

LE
Président WILSON
 en France
 Décembre 1918
 —••—
President Woodrow WILSON
 in FRANCE
 December 1918



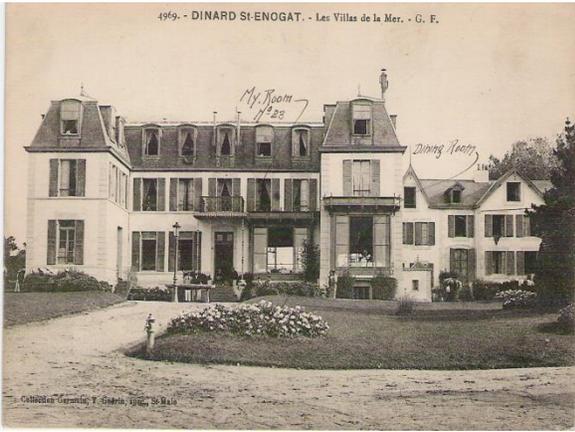
Le Président Woodrow WILSON à Paris - President Woodrow WILSON in Paris
 Place de la Concorde



Le Président Woodrow WILSON à Paris - President Woodrow WILSON in Paris
 Décembre 1918



Le Président Woodrow WILSON à Paris - President Woodrow WILSON in Paris
 Décembre 1918



Dear Lucile;
 Arrive here yesterday. My room overlooks the ocean. Fine view
 Love Bim



Dear Mother;
 Yesterday certainly didn't seem much like Christmas to me. I thought of home all day long & wished that George, Gus & I could only be there with you.
 Bim



Dear Lucile;
 This shows part of the bathing beach but it is too cold to go in swimming. Wish we could swim across to the good old U.S.A.
 Love Bim



To John Henry Heineman Jr.
 This is the building in which the "Y" is located where we spend most of our time when not sight seeing. If you don't write to me soon I will stop writing to you too. Bim



Dear Lucile;
 I will spend Xmas here & expect to have a fairly good time but my thoughts will always be with you.
 Love Bim



Dear Mother;
 This is a small but pretty place. Am feeling fine & am getting a good rest. I will have to tell you when I get home how I went on my vacation instead of going to where I wrote about.
 Love to all Bim



Dear Lucile;
 Haven't time to write more as they are waiting on me now.
 Love Bim



Dear Lucile
 Am getting so tired & disgusted with this life over here that I don't know what I will do if they keep us here much longer.
 Love Bim



Dear Mother;
 Suppose you will be surprised to receive a card from me from here. Will not be here long & haven't much time. Will tell you in my next letter what I came here for.
 Love Bim

Dear Lucile;
 My furlough is just about over with & in a couple of days will have to go back to the old grind again. Sure wish they would speed things up a little.
 Love Bim



MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS
ADVANCE OVERHAUL PARK No T-1,
SAMPIGNY (THRU APO 747).

March 10th, 1919.

TRAVEL PASS

Sgt. W. A. Heineman, M.T.C. Repair Unit 328, Sec. 5, is authorized to proceed overland from this Park to Leonval, and Colombey les Belles, on duties in connection with the Motor Transport Corps. Upon completion of this duty, he will return to station.

By order of Major Nellegar:

M.T.
No 9.



W. M. SPEARS
W. M. SPEARS,
1st Lt. Inf., U.S.A.
Adjutant.



Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of
SERGEANT HEINEMAN WILHELM A. #226590 I do hereby appoint him
† SERGEANT SENIOR GRADE (TEMPORARY) of the † MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS, ARMY
of the United States, to rank as such from the SEVENTEENTH day of JUNE
one thousand nine hundred and NINETEEN. He is therefore carefully and diligently
to discharge the duty of* SERGEANT SENIOR GRADE by doing and performing all manner of
things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all noncommissioned Officers
and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as SERGEANT SENIOR GRADE.
And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive
from his Superior Officers and noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and
discipline of War.

Given under my hand at HQS. S.O.S., O.D.M.T.C., AMERICAN E.F.
this SEVENTEENTH day of JUNE in the year of our Lord one thousand nine
hundred and NINETEEN M. L. WALKER, BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S.A.
DIRECTOR MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS,
BY: *Chas Richter*

Form No. 152—A. G. O.
Ed. Aug. 16-17—500,000.

* Insert grade.
† Insert grade and company and regiment or corps or department. e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry," "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps," "Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department."
‡ Insert "Regular Army," "National Army," "National Guard," "Regular Army Reserve," or "Enlisted Reserve Corps," as the case may be.

Bourg France
August 3/19

Dear Mother & Folks:-
This is Sunday after-
noon & a rainy day & nothing to do.
I have received very little mail lately
as usual, but hope that you have
been getting my letters regularly. I did
receive a letter from Art last week & also
one from Lucile.
Well Mama I have some pretty
good news to tell you at last. I think
we will pull out of here & on our
way for home some time this week or
the beginning of next. Our date for leaving
here has not been set as far as we know

but things sure do look good. No doubt
you have seen in the papers where the French
have purchased all of the U.S. supplies. The
French representatives are in our park now
& from all indications it will be only a matter
of a few days until they take it over. We
may be held over at the port because the
Army of occupation is pulling out now &
it first depends upon how many boats are
in port when we hit there as to how long
we will have to wait. If everything
works out right & the way we are
hoping it will we ought to be mustered out
& back home by the first part of September.

Bourg France
August 3, 1919

Dear Mother & Folks;

This is Sunday afternoon & a rainy day &
nothing to do. I have received very little
mail lately, as usual, but hope that you
have been getting my letters regularly. I
did receive a letter from Art last week &
also one from Lucile.

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pulling out now & it first depends upon
how many boats are in port when we hit
there as to how long we will have to wait.
If everything works out right & the way
we are hoping it will we ought to be
mustered out & back home by the first
part of September.

Am enclosing four pictures. This is not a "Drunk Party" as it may seem, just trying to drown a few of our worries & troubles & forget about the army for a short time. Well I will stop now & write a few lines to Art. I am still in good health & feeling fine & hope that everyone back home is the same.

Give my regards to everyone & tell them that I will soon be back with them again.

Affectionately
Bim

Am enclosing some pictures. This is not a "Drunk Party" as it may seem. Just trying to drown a few of our worries & troubles & forget about the army for a short time.

Well I will stop now & write a few lines to Art. I am still in good health & feeling fine & hope everyone back home is the same.

Give my regards to everyone & tell them that I will soon be back with them again.

Affectionately
Bim



Bourg
Aug 4/19

Dear Mother:- Am enclosing eleven
 (11) pictures that were taken
 around our camp here in
 Bourg. I wrote to you & Art
 yesterday. Hope you get the letters
 I am O.K. I have never felt
 better since I have been over here
 for I think we will get out of here
 this week - Bim

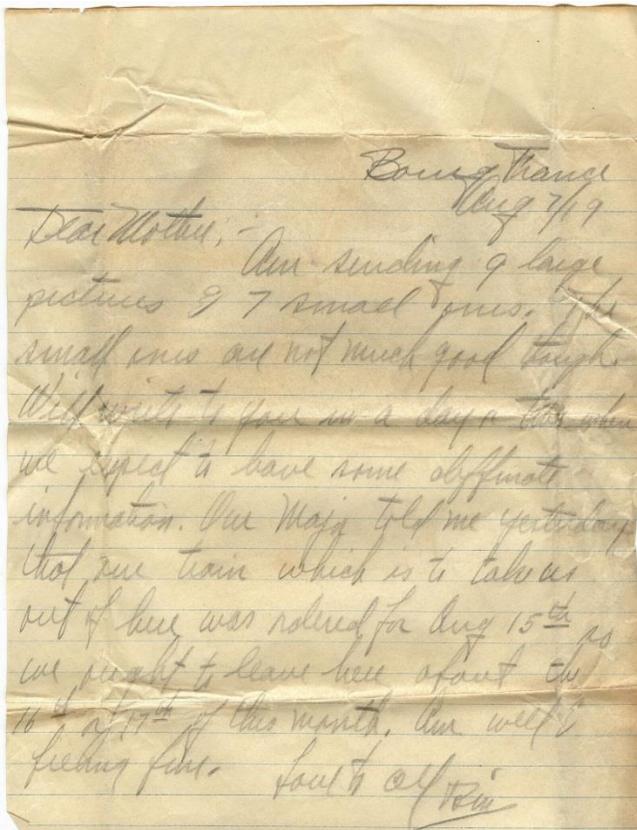
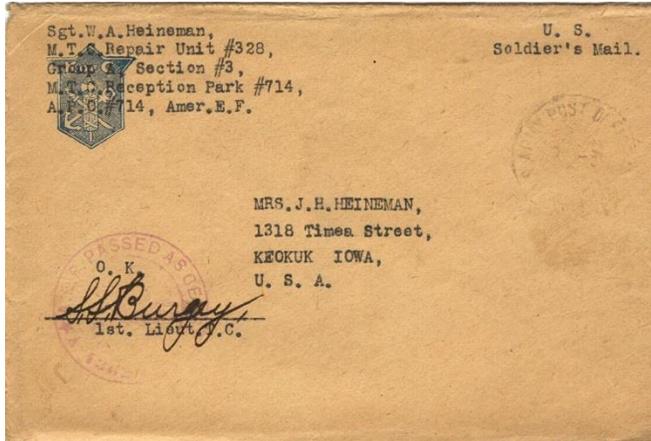
Bourg (France)
 August 4, 1919

Dear Mother;

Am enclosing eleven (11) pictures that
 were taken around our camp here in
 Bourg. I wrote to you & Art yesterday.
 Hope you get the letters. I am O.K. &
 have never felt better since I have been
 over here for I think we will get out of
 here this week.

Bim





Bourg France
Aug 7, 1919

Dear Mother;

Am sending 9 large pictures & 7 small ones. The small ones are not much good though. Will write to you in a day or two when we expect to have some definite information. Our Major told me yesterday that our train which is to take us out of here was released for Aug 15th so we ought to leave here about the 16th or 17th of this month. Am well & feeling fine.

Love to all
Bim

HEADQUARTERS SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR : MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS

August 11th, 1919.

From: Director, Motor Transport Corps, A.P.O. #717.
To: C.O., Group "A", R.U. 328, M.T.C., A.P.O. #714.
(Thru C.O., M.T.C., Reception Park, A.P.O. 714).
Subject: Letter of Commendation.

1. I desire to express my appreciation of the services rendered by Group A, R.U. 328, M.T.C. The records of the Motor Transport Corps show that the members of this organization served at Nevers, Paris, Langres, Sampigny, and Donjeux, and did valuable work, installing and maintaining the parks at these places.

2. The work of the organization has always been satisfactorily performed and always to the credit of the Motor Transport Corps.

M. L. WALKER,
BRIGADIER-GENERAL, U.S.A.

1st Ind.
C.O., M.T.C. Reception Park 714, Bourg (Haute Marne), 19 August 1919. To: C.O.
Group A, M.T.C. Repr. Unit #328, M.T.C. Reception Park 714, Bourg, France.

1. Forwarded.

By direction of Major DUNLOP:

B. WILSON,
Major, M.T.C.
Adjutant.



2nd Ind.
C.O. Group A, R.U. 328 M.T.C., A.P.O. 714. To: Sgt.Sr.Gr. W.A. Heineman,
Group A, R.U. 328, M.T.C. Reception Park 714, Bourg (Haute Marne) France.

1. A commendation of this kind, accompanied by the release of our organization from duty for return to the States should give you a feeling of pride and joy.

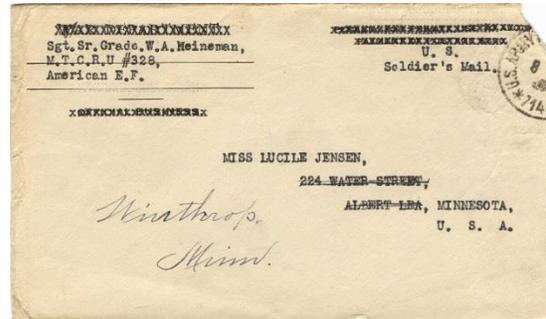
O. L. Sifford
O. L. Sifford,
Captain, M.T.C.
Commanding.

Bourg France
Aug 22/19

My Darling Sweetheart,

I just wrote you a letter this afternoon but after mailing it we were given the good news that we are to leave this Camp Tomorrow at 5:30 P.M. ^(Aug 23) on our way Home.

Will write you when I land in the good old U.S.A.
Love & kisses
Your Bim

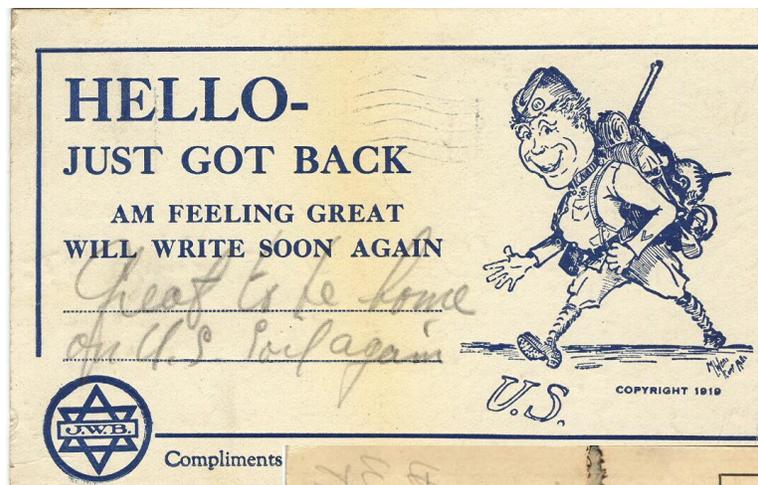
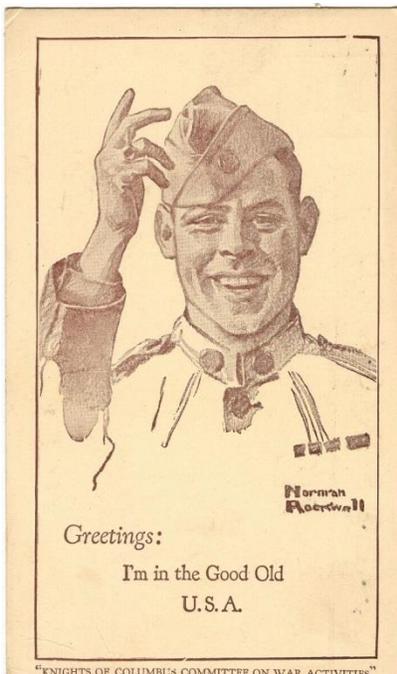


Bourg, France
August 22, 1919

My Darling Sweetheart:
 I just wrote you a little this afternoon but after mailing it we were given the good news that we are to leave this Camp tomorrow at 5:30 PM (Aug 23) on our way Home.

Will write you when I land in the good old U.S.A.

Love and kisses
Your Bim



Dear Mother;
 Am sending this from the Dock. Will write soon
 Thurs. 11/19 Bim

518 Sultan

Indexed Compared
Copied Paged

Honorable Discharge from The United States Army



INSTRUMENT No. 1567
STATE OF IOWA, LEE COUNTY
FILED FOR RECORD

MAY 7 1941

AT 1⁰⁰ O'CLOCK P.M.

RECORDED IN BOOK 1 PAGE 233

W. ELLIS WELLS, RECORDER

BY David A. Cochran DEPUTY

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That Wilhelm A. Heinemann
†226590 Spt. Co. Casual Det., 1444 Demol. Group
Last assigned to - Sec 3 Bn A Repair Unit 325 M.T.C.
THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL

SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the
UNITED STATES by reason of Dis. W.D. Nov 15, 1918, Lt. A.G. Nov 30, 1918

Said Wilhelm A. Heinemann was born
in Keosauke, in the State of Iowa

When enlisted he was 24 1/2 years of age and by occupation a drum major
He had blue eyes, dk brown hair, ruddy complexion, and
was 5 feet 8 1/2 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Camp Dodge, Iowa this
22nd day of September, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen

W. E. Wells
Major, Infantry U.S.A.
Commanding.

Form No. 525, A. G. O.
Oct. 9-18.

*Insert name, Christian name first; e.g., "John Doe."

†Insert Army serial number, grade, company and regiment or arm or corps or department; e.g., "1,620,302"; "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry"; "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps"; "Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department."

‡If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date, and source of order or full description of authority therefor.

3-3164

ENLISTMENT RECORD.

Name: Wilhelm A Reineman Grade: Sgt. S. E.

Enlisted, ~~or Inducted~~, Dec 12, 1917, at Keokuk, Iowa

Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge:

Prior service: *None

Noncommissioned officer: Sgt. Aug 9, 1915, Sgt. S. E. June 12, 1919

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: † not rated

Horsemanship: not mounted

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: 1st Army Ave. 8. 20-11-1918, 2nd Army Ave

12-12-11-1918, Champagne Mar. 7-15-1918

Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations: None

Knowledge of any vocation: Drifterman

2-5

32640

Wounds received in service: None

Physical condition when discharged: Good

Typhoid prophylaxis completed Dec 27, 1917

Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed Dec 27, 1917

Married or single: Single

Character: Excellent

Remarks: No record of previous service under previous enlistment

intended to transfer pay to Keokuk, Iowa

Left on Jan 17, 1918, returned Sept 14, 1919

Victory Button Brochure issued

Signature of soldier: Wilhelm A Reineman

CAMP BUDGE, IOWA

SEP 22 1919

Paid in Full Including

Bonus: \$ 133.00

Paul W. Wittke

Camp Quartermaster, U. S. A.

Pt Sheldon

Cap. J. W. ...

Commanding SEP 1919

* Give company and regiment or corps or department, with inclusive dates of service in each enlistment.
† Give date of qualification or rating and number, date, and source of order announcing same.

