Collection of personal narratives, manuscripts and ephemera about the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic  (UCLA Biomed Ms. Coll. no. 509)

Russell A. Johnson, Curator
History & Special Collections for the Sciences
UCLA Library Special Collections (LSC)
Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library
12-077 Center for the Health Sciences, UCLA
Los Angeles CA  90095-1798
310.825.6940
rjohnson@library.ucla.edu

Archival, primary source material pertaining to the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic will be studied by undergraduate students for assignments in Dr. Carla Bittel’s Fall 2017 History 4433 class, Health and Disease in American Culture, at Loyola Marymount University (LMU).

Collection consists of 7 document boxes with numbered folders containing handwritten letters, printed ephemera, pamphlets, diaries, and a book.
http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6709336

- Box 1 contains 509.001 - 509.042
- Box 2 contains 509.043 - 509.064
- Box 3 contains 509.065 - 509.111
- Box 4 contains 509.112 - 509.158
- Box 5 contains 509.159
- Box 6 contains 509.159 - 509.160
- Box 7 contains 509.161 - 509.182

Finding aid/inventory to box 1 and part of box 2 (items 509.001 through 509.051) is available through the Online Archive of California: http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt2t1nf4s5
Items 509.052 through 509.182 are individually cataloged in the UCLA Library Catalog; portions of catalog records, linked to the full records, are appended.

(2) “Album of photographs, letters, telegrams, and other memorabilia relating to the brief military career, illness, and death by pneumonia or influenza of Alton William Miller of Kingston, New York, 1918” (UCLA Biomed Ms. Coll. no. 509.301).
The album contains 5 photographs, 3 identification cards, 4 forms and certificates, 1 postcard, 16 letters (most accompanied by transcriptions; some have postal covers), 7 telegrams, 1 military medal, and 1 handpainted memorial diploma/certificate.
http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7103552
Letter from Emma Svoboda, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Corporal Arthur J. Janda, Co. C School Troops, Central Officers Training School, Camp Pike, Arkansas, 1918 October 23

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6533465

1 item ([6] p.) ; 21 cm + with envelope

Emma H. Svoboda (1897-1974) writes to her future husband, Arthur J. Janda (1896-1987). calling him "My dear Hubby"; they were married later, in June 1919. She misses her husband and is "feeling blue" at being separated from each other. "Hubby to-day it was rather cool and damp and the day sure was long. The Inffleunza [sic] is still spreading. It sure keeps the doctors and undertakers busy. I guess it will be checked before long."

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6533467

1 item ([8] p.) ; 21 cm + with envelope

Emma H. Svoboda (1897-1974) writes to her future husband, Arthur J. Janda (1896-1987). calling him "My dear Hubby"; they were married later, in June 1919. "I feel pretty good, only that I have still got a cold. It is almost gone, so I think I will go to work. I cannot wait till I can go outside. ... Hubby how can you fall asleep when you go to bed so early at 8 oclock. You sure are an early bird. I suppose you get all the sleep you want now since you are in the Army. ... Hubby to-nights paper states that they are going to start discharging the boys from Camp Dodge, Monday. There was also an article in the paper that the Kaiser has the Influenza. Hubby the sickness is checked in Cedar Rapids, there are but very few cases. I sure am glad that they have checked it."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, lined paper. It was mailed in a plain envelope, sealed with a service star poster stamp, from Cedar Rapids with a 3-cent U.S. postage stamp.
Letter from Emma Svoboda, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Corporal Arthur J. Janda, Co. C School Troops, Central Officers Training School, Camp Pike, Arkansas, 1918 December 4

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6533469

1 item ([6] p.); 21 cm + with envelope

Emma H. Svoboda (1897-1974) writes to her future husband, Arthur J. Janda (1896-1987). calling him "My dear Hubby"; they were married later, in June 1919. "Hubby there are a great number of Influenza cases. In 36 hours there were 40 cases reported besides pneumonia cases. I am taking very good care of myself and wrap up good when I go to work. ... I can hardly wait till you come home, so we could be with each other like we used to. I wonder if those days will ever come back."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, lined paper. It was mailed in a plain envelope, sealed with a service star poster stamp, from Cedar Rapids with a 3-cent U.S. postage stamp.
Letter from Benjamin Foster in Pensacola, Florida, to his sister, 1918 September 23

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6533470

1 item ([4] p.) ; 25 cm

Benj. (Benjamin) Foster writes to his sister from Pensacola, Florida, where he reports--presumably from a military camp--about operating a mill to make silver grain spruce into laminated planking or "vinur" (veneer?). His letter begins: "How is everybody at home. I have had a bad cold but I am getting better there is a disease going around the station & in town & is putting a lot of fellows in the Hospital. It is the 'Spanish Enfleuencha' [Influenza]. We may be quarantined for 30 days but I dont no."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, unlined paper.
Letter from Mrs. I. T. Ferguson of Shreveport, Louisiana, to her son, Lt. Jerome H. Ferguson, Co. C, 307th Labor Battalion, Base Sec. 2, American Expeditionary Forces, France, 1919 March 23

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6568779

1 item ([3] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Mrs. I.T. Ferguson writes to her son, Jerome, beginning: "Just a few lines to let you know we are O.K. Spring weather is here and I have to admit for one time I am glad of it as I think the influenza will be stamped out completely. Its (sic) very seldom I hear of a case."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, unlined paper. It was mailed in a plain envelope from Shreveport, La. with a 3-cent U.S. postage stamp.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6786254

1 item (4 leaves); 21 cm + with envelope

Corporal Charles F. Hedrick writes to his parents: "I have been to one front, all kinds of weather, hard work. Have seen Germans dead & our own men, too, but the wounded was of great number. I remember, one night in a trench, German shells dropping all around, besides we had rain, lying in water, it was no picnic, believe me. ... We were relieved, came from the front, and hiking to another front, when I was taken seriously sick. Though sick, I held out for a couple of days, when I left the company the doctor marked me Influenza, but I was worse than that, they wouldn't tell me. Up to this time, I have been in hospital about 4 wks., 5 days. About a wk. and a half ago was up before the examination board to get examined. They marked on my hospital records B-2 class, different classes, according to condition, see if fit to go back to Company for the front. B-2 class means from 3 to 6 months behind the lines, also means (temporally [sic; i.e., temporarily] unfit, unable to work.) I am better, but can improve in health, taking it easy now, so my condition will be better in the near future. Those of us who were not killed or wounded may be lucky, but it may be the Good Man guiding us."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on unlined paper with red American Red Cross ("On active service with the American Expeditionary Forces") letterhead. It was mailed in a plain envelope, franked "Soldiers Mail" with U.S. Army A.P.O. 780 cancellation, with censor's inkstamp on cover.

One sheet (leaf 4) split into halves at horizontal fold.
Letter from Dolores in Berkeley, California to her father, 1918 November 6

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7395529

1 item ([4] p.) ; 21 cm

Dolores writes to her father, apparently a carpenter, about the influenza epidemic affecting the University of California in Berkeley: "Although other educational activities are closed U.C. still goes on. Our class has been in a sad state between military orders and illness. Our boys have had a hard time very ill in the barracks and quarantined to boot. We are running classes 6 days a week so it keeps us busy. ... I don't know whether you like nose oils or not. I have been keeping down colds by using an oil of eucalyptus, with menthol and camphor. It goes by the name of Wordens nasal spray or Geothal [Glothal?]. You might like it very much as it is very healing. I apply it with the end of a soft cloth in my nose."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, unlined yellow paper.
Letter from Private H. A. Dickey of Battalion B, 47th Artillery, American Expeditionary Forces in Angouleme, France to his mother, Mrs. H. E. Dickey, Argenta, Illinois, 1918 November 18

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6533072

1 item ([2] leaves) ; 24 cm + with envelope

Private Howard A. Dickey writes to his mother, Mrs. Henry Elliott (Emma A.) Dickey with a report of the local reaction in Angouleme, France, to the Armistace a week earlier: "The French people are sure tickled, they nearly went crazy when they got the good news. I am sorry to hear of so much 'flu' around there. They had quite a bit of it here before we came but it is all over now I guess, we don't hear anything about it any more."

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper with Knights of Columbus Overseas Service letterhead. It was mailed in a Knights of Columbus-inkstamped envelope, franked with handwritten "Soldiers Mail", with cancellation and censor's inkstamps.
Letter from Nannie C. in Richmond, Virginia, to Chip, 1918 October 19

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7182358

1 item ([8] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Nannie C. writes to Chip, who may be her brother who presumably is in the American Expeditionary Forces in France, with excitement about his most recent letter: "You are certainly having an exciting time. Talk about being where things are doing! That's where you are!! We get so excited when your letters come and enjoy them so much. We are all so proud of that fine report. First thing we know you will be Vice-Generalissimo! How about it?" She continues with details about the impact of influenza on Richmond and nearby communities: "The flu is still here. Schools, Churches, Theaters, and [illegible] have been closed for two weeks. The hospital at John Marshall is still running. One of the colored schools was opened for colored patients and is run by colored nurses and doctors. ... Mr. Green was at Randolph Macon college in charge of the flu bays. He is now in a little town up in the Valley where there are two hundred cases and no doctor. He and another medical student are working there. ... We have been running a Red Cross headquarters at church for an auxiliary. We get materials from the big headquarters and send it out to be made up. Then collect the finished articles and turn them in. Everything we have made has been for the emergency hospital. the ladies are running a soup kitchen, too. They make gallons of beef tea and carry it in autos to the flu people. Mostly on Oregon Hill and in Africa and such places." She concludes: "Be sure to bring your gas mask and tin hat home. I want to see you with them on."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, unlined paper.

"Nannie C.", writing from 319 W. Grace Street in Richmond, Virginia, may be a member of the Campbell family, whom one historian associates with conducting the Richmond Female Seminary in the late 1880s (http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/leslie-lyle-campbell/the-dance-family-in-virginia-pma/page-5-the-dance-family-in-virginia-pma.shtml, accessed 18 July 2015).
Letter from Elizabeth in Rye, New York, to her sister Bertie Banks, Westport, Connecticut, 1918 October 20

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6452026

1 item ([2] p.) ; 20 cm + with envelope

Elizabeth reports to her sister (Bertie, addressed as Mrs. Stephen Banks) about influenza cases in White Plains, New York, which she recently left because she herself became ill: "Fred and Clarence did the running up and down stairs and I took care of the sick and Wednesday I gave out and I had to go to bed. The Dr thought I had Influenza but I knew it was a cold and being tired out and I ran a higher temperature than normal with it: The work at White Plains was extremely hard. I was taking care of 24 patients a day. the average days work is 8 patients a day four nurses was caring for 80 patients a day when I left. ... I sent Jim to Port Chester to have a prescription filled at a drug store in the lower part of the village -- There was was [sic] a line of people reaching across the sidewalk waiting to get in the store: In White Plains at one drug store the doors were locked so one crowd could be waited upon before another was let in: When I left 616 cases had been reported. Last night the number had increased to 2265. More than a thousand are sick in Port Chester I was called up a dozen or fifteen times Mrs. Lockwood said and one doctor had been to the house for me. I am sorry to have given out it will take me several days to get my strength back."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on plain, unlined paper. It was mailed in a plain envelope with one two-cent and one one-cent postage stamps cancelled at Rye, N.Y.
Letter from M.B. Mahanay in St. Louis, Missouri, to her son, Corporal S.C. Mahanay, Army Radio Sec., Signal Corps, American Expeditionary Forces, France, 1918 November 25

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6936819

1 item ([10] p.) ; 28 cm + with envelope

M.B. Mahanay writes to her son, stationed with the U.S. Army Signal Corps in France, with news from home: "She [Aunt S.] is at Brewster (house) R.F.D. -- Her school at Ephrata (e of Muatchee) was closed on account of 'flu' -- Poor Bill [Plemmerus?] & a Starzman girl died." She promises to send some music from St. Louis: "When you had your theatrical & musical dreams, no one anticipated such an amazing gigantic affair, as this world war. That has revolutionized everything nearly in the world, but the Bible. ... I think Gpa [Grandpa] is really proud of you. Everything indicates it. You are just about what he likes -- clean morally, mentally & physically. You went into the war, as he went into the 'Lost Cause'. ... I have written several times that if you can stay over there for a while, to any advantage, to do so -- I have no idea (of course) how much choice the men will be given about returning but thought possibly in your line of work, you might have a chance to do as you pleased to some extent. I'll not worry if you remain a while longer -- You might do some wonderful music study. There is some tale afloat here, that Uncle Sam is going to educate the boys whose schooling was interrupted -- I suppose I better find out the facts. You see you were practically a H.S. student."

The letter is handwritten in pencil on unlined paper with Missouri Pacific Railroad Company letterhead. It was mailed in an envelope with its original corporate imprint crossed out, mailed with a 3-cent U.S. postage stamp canceled in Webster, Missouri.
Letter from Mabel Mason in Yarmouth, Maine, to her friend, Corporal Ernest Storer, 1918 November 10

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6860279

1 item ([6] p.) ; 20 cm

The recipient of the letter was provided by antiquarian bookseller, who identified Corporal Storer from other letters.

Mabel Mason writes to "Friend Ernest": "Well Ald Sport how goes every thing with you? every thing here is at present just a bit more lively than it has been a few weeks past. for on account of the influenza which was so terrible here -- there was a bow on every thing. such a dead old place we are all cheering up in hopes that in the very near future we shall have all of our boys back with us making the ald place 'go some'. surely you are doing just what we wanted done. the Huns are to take a back seat. 'Hurrah.' Believe me there was something doing here the Sat. night we received word Germany had surrendered, bells were ringing whistles were blowing we even had a torch parade amidst all the rain. much to our disappointment it was all in vein."
The Dickens calendar
New York : Sully and Kleinteich, 373 Fourth Avenue, [1917]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7463722

[55] leaves ; 24 cm

Cover title; imprint from lower wrapper.

Calendar is for 1918; publication date presumed to be 1917.

"Calendars for 1918. All are handsomely printed in two colors, daintily blended, each calendar having a decidedly attractive trim of entirely individual character. They contain 53 quotations, one for each week, for the greater part, of specially copyrighted material."--Advertisement on leaf [54].

Leaves are printed on recto, black on verso.

UCLA Biomed's copy: This 1918 calendar was used as a diary for a young woman from Chicago who attended or taught singing at a school in Detroit. In the margins or versos of various leaves she reports, chiefly in pencil with some notes in pen: people with whom she socializes; vocal lessons and choir practices; performances she gives and concerts she attends; schools being closed "on account of fuel" (early February); the first robin of Spring; selling $150 worth of Liberty Loans (April); working "at Y.W. on surgical dressings" (April 23); "Saloons close May 1st / So long John Barleycorn!"; an eclipse of the sun (June 8); the death of Theodore Roosevelt's son, Quentin, in his "aeroplane" (July 17); a celebration of the reported end of the war on November 7; celebrating the Armistice on November 11 with parades ("my what a glorious day"); and putting "a record on our new Victor" on Christmas Day. In mid-October, she wrote, "Influenza is very bad all over the country. Detroit has its share. Many are dying. Wearing masks for prevention of disease. Germans are asking for peace." On October 29th, "Started our canvas for the Flu Cases. Called on 29 houses in Jefferson Court." On Sunday, 5 January 1919, the last entry reads, "Ethel and I started at 1:15 for Detroit. The trip was about as usual. Many soldiers on the train. Arrived on time. Mrs. C. met me. Got in bed at 1 o'clock [sic] and thus ended a very Happy Vacation for me and a year has passed that will be most eventful in History to come."
Letter from James Keith, principal of Calaveras Union High School, San Andreas, California, to Mr. J. C. Twisselman, County Director, U.W.W.C., Angels Camp, California, 1918 November 2

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7597659

1 item ([2] p.) ; 28 cm

James Keith, principal of Calaveras Union High School, San Andreas, California, acknowledges receipt of a letter from Mr. J.C. Twisselman, County Director of the U.W.W.C. (United War Work Campaign?) at Angels Camp, California and discusses plans for an upcoming campaign. "Judge Smith and I talked over the question of outside speakers and we decided it would not be advisable to hold public meetings on account of Spanish Flu." He discusses how to organize a fundraising campaign without direct contact: "In some of the precincts it may be an excuse for poor collections, the prevalence of Spanish Flu. In some cases we must emphasize the fact that Spanish Flu or any other kind of Flu does not prevent the boys at the front from going over the top, neither should it influence us, meetings or no meetings, from going over the top in our drive for the benefit and comfort of the boys who are going over the top for us."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper with Calaveras Union High School letterhead.
Margaret Hayout of Bellevue, Ohio writes to Mrs. Winnie Dundore of Burgoon, Ohio, who may have been her former teacher. Margaret reports recently having moved from Missouri to Ohio. She encloses an RPPC (real photo postcard) and enthusiastic description of Kennett Castle (also called Selma Hall), on the Mississippi River, owned by her mother's cousin as a summer home. "Isn't this malady which is so nation wide just awful? But we can be so thankful that it isn't some thing worse and that the war is over. We are again quarantined. The schools, churches, etc were again closed last Friday. I do hope none of your people were victims. We were so fortunate. No one in our immediate family has had this disease. ... One of the first victims of the 'flu' here was Bob Viall. He was in your class at the same time I was. it was so sad. He had grown to be such a fine looking, manly fellow. He left school about two years ago and at the time of his death was associated with his father in his store."

The letter is handwritten in blue ink on unlined, gray, wove stationery, folded.
Letter from Private Robert T. Harrington, Co. B, 19th Infantry, Fort Bliss, Texas, to Mrs. Henry T. Harrington, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, 1918 December 8

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7698472

1 item ([6] p.); 23 cm + with envelope

Private Robert T. Harrington of Co. B, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, writes to his mother, Mrs. Henry T. Harrington, in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. He reports having arrived from Camp Travis (near San Antonio) with about 600 soldiers in companies A, B, C, D, and part of Supply Company, to live in tents. "I guess we won't get discharged as soon as I thot [sic] we would for we are going to stay here about a month and then move to the Border to do Out-Post Guard along the Rio Grande. ... I guess the U.S. is afraid they are going to have trouble with Mexico. [Pancho] Villa is about 75 miles from where we are located so we may get a chance to see some real action yet. ... We are under quarantine again as four of the enlisted men and one Lieut. got sick with the Influenza on the way down and are now in the Base Hosp. here. We also have got quite a few sick in the hosp. in Camp Travis who were taken sick the day before we left. Our Capt. was taken sick so he didn't come with us but he will be here when he gets out of the hosp. at Camp Travis."

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined, Y.M.C.A. "With the Colors" letterhead stationery.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7700591

1 item ([12] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Private Robert T. Harrington of Co. B, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, writes to his mother, Mrs. Henry T. Harrington, in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. He reports that most of B Company has left for Fort Hancock, Texas, or the "Smelters" or to guard the International Bridge. "I have been working in the office most of the time. The Lieut. who is with the sixty men at Ft. Hancock was here today and he said they expected to have some trouble there before long. Mexican Bandits are raiding ranches again. But I hardly think there will be any fighting between this country and Mexico. ... The quarantine was lifted here a week ago last Sat. [December 14] and [I] went to El Paso. Like the place better than San Antonio but of course you see an awful lot of Mexicans here. The International Bridge is where you see our soldiers guarding on our side and Mexican soldiers on their side."

The letter is handwritten in ink on brown, unlined stationery with "19 U.S. Infantry" letterhead.
Letter from Private Robert T. Harrington, A.R.D. #329, Station #2, Camp Travis, Texas, to Mrs. Henry T. Harrington, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, 1918 October 3

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7700616

1 item ([12] p.); 21 cm + with envelope

Private Robert T. Harrington of Auxiliary Remount Depot 329, Station 2, at Fort Travis, Texas, writes to his mother, Mrs. Henry T. Harrington, in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. He notes that he has asked to transfer to the 19th Infantry and will try to get into Officer Training School there. "The hardships in France can't be an awful lot worse than those I went thru at Ft. Slocum [the recruiting station in New York] and I stood it alright there while there were quite a few died. ... Yes, you are right this awful war is taking the cream out of the U.S. but they need the best men that they have got on the firing line in France. I hope it won't be long before this war will be over. But until that time we must fight on. It makes one wish that every German in the world was dead. Believe me, the Germans are paying pretty dear in lives now and I hope the U.S. Army kills them all. I look for the war to last another year from now." Harrington is observing his ten month anniversary of military service, but is canceling his furlough request ("It is easy to get a furlough if you wish to be married") because he told his girlfriend, Hazel, they should wait until the war ends. "This epidemic of Spanish Influenza is surely awful. Camp Travis was put under quarantine night before last at 12 P.M. Last night at 8 P.M. this Remount was put under quarantine so of course I couldn't get my furlough now anyway, Mother. Now every Army Camp in and about San Antonio is under quarantine making a total of about 275,000 soldiers. I don't know how long the quarantine will be on. We are not allowed to leave the Camp. I understand that Camp Devens [Massachusetts] is full of it. It surely is awful and I hope they stop it soon. Don't worry about me for I'll keep well and not get sick at all."

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper.
Christmas postcard from Warren McGough to his sister, Esther McGough, in Evansburg, Pennsylvania, 1918 December 16

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7604517

1 postcard : col. ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Warren (McGough?) writes a postcard to his sister, who has influenza: "So you are one of the unfortunates to get the 'flu'. The constitution failed. I am praying that you are well by this time. Wishing you a merry Xmas and a Happy New Year." The chromolithographed postcard was printed in France; it is franked by hand, "SM" (soldier's mail?).
Letter from Private E. Greenblatt, Hdq. F.H. Section, 5th San. Train, A.E.F., to his father, 1918 October 30

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7677182

1 item ([3] leaves); 27 cm

Private E. Greenblatt of Headquarters Field Hospital Section, 5th Sanitary Train, American Expeditionary Forces, writes "from somewhere in France" to his father. He begins, "Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive, although at the present time I feel as though I could lay down and die. I think that it is the grippe. No doubt by the time you receive this I will be alright [sic] again." He reports being in "the hardest part of the front" and handling many shot-up patients during the preceding month. He compliments the Red Cross treatment of wounded soldiers: "I can't say any too much good for them. They had hot chocolate and sweet chocolate for the gassed. That is the best thing they can have. I sure feel sorry for the fellows that are gassed. If they ever get gassed bad it is worse than a wound. Then they had cigarettes, gum and hot chocolate for the wounded. Some of the boys didn't have a thing to eat or drink that was hot for three days and I wish you could have seen them punish hot chocolate with bread & jam. Once in a while a man would come in very nervous and cold. We would give him a 'shot' of whiskey and believe me, he sure would brace up. It is surprising what that stuff will do for a fellow when he needs it. The other night before going to bed I had a hot whiskey sling and it sure broke up my colds." He criticizes the Germans for dropping bombs on the hospital, sinking hospital ships, and "sending a lot of propaganda over ... it sure is a bunch of rotten stuff."

The letter is handwritten in purple ink on unlined paper. It was signed by the censor, a U.S. Army Chaplain, but apparently nothing was eliminated or changed.
Letter from Corporal Edwin W. Seager, 309th H.F.A. Battalion E, from near Verdun, France, to his brother Wesley A. Seager in Wolcott, Wayne County, New York, 1918 November 28

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7429401

1 item ([4] p.); 22 cm + with envelope

Corporal Edwin W. Seager, an anti-aircraft gunner in Battery E., 309th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment, 78th Division, writes to his brother in Wolcott, New York. With the lifting of censorship on letters, he reports he presently is in battle-scarred Verdon [i.e., Verdun], France, after fighting in the St.-Mihiel drive, nearly to Sedan, into November: "It is Thanksgiving day and we have a lot to be thankful for I believe. What do you think about it. one thing is that this war has at last come to an end and that is the most to be thankful for. the only kick I have is that I haven't received any mail for over a week and the last letter I received was from Minnie and she wrote about you, Harriett and the baby having the influenza. and no mail since then of course I have been worried some but we will probably get mail soon. and I hope to you are all well and able to enjoy a good dinner on this day as we are all planning on doing." Other correspondence by this soldier in other repositories indicates that Wesley's wife died before this letter was posted.

The letter is handwritten in ink and pencil on lined paper with American YMCA "On active duty with the American Expeditionary Force" letterhead. It was signed by the censor. M.P.E.S. (Military Postal Express Service) U.S. Army Post Office 771 cancellation, December 6, and censor inkstamp and signature on the envelope..
Letter to Corporal Edwin W. Seager, 309th H.F.A., Battery E, in France with the American Expeditionary Forces, from his mother and his sister, Minnie, in Wolcott, New York, 1918 October 7

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7265810

1 item ([4] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Corporal Edwin W. Seager, an anti-aircraft gunner in Battery E., 309th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment, 78th Division, somewhere in France, receives a single letter written by his mother and concluded by his sister, Minnie, postmarked from Wolcott, New York. His mother reports, "Grandpa and grandma were at church. Emma didn't come, as she has been sick, a light attack of the Spanish Influenza. There are about 150 cases of it in town, and the school has closed for one week, that is the high school. No one has it in our district, in Oswego all saloons theatre, and schools are closed." She continues with news of the community. Minnie begins, "You will see as usual Mamma has written all the news so don't know what I will write," but she continues and fills two pages.

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper; postage stamp and end of envelope torn away by recipient.
Letter to Corporal Edwin W. Seager, 309th H.F.A., Battery E, in France with the American Expeditionary Forces, from his sister, Minnie, in Wolcott, New York, 1918 November 1

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7271377

1 item ([4] p.) ; 17 cm + with envelope

Minnie Seager writes to her brother, Corporal Edwin W. Seager, an anti-aircraft gunner in Battery E., 309th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment, 78th Division, somewhere in France, postmarked from Wolcott, New York, to inform him of the death of his sister-in-law, Harriet. Their brother Wesley, Harriet's husband, had also been ill but recovered. The letter contains details of the course of the illness, preparations for the funeral, and the impact on the family. "Wesley had 3 different counsels of Dr but none could decribe [i.e., describe] what the trouble was -- She had influenza and took cold had pneumonia and had to wean the baby and that seemed to poison her whole body. Last Sunday when I wrote you papa & I had been there and she seemed lots better but Monday she got worse again -- Mamma went back home with Wesley last night and will stay a few days and pack up his things and disinfect all through then he is coming home with the baby." she concludes, "I wouldn't of wrote all this about Harriet but thought some one would mention it in your letter then you would wonder why we didn't so thought I would write just as it was."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper; part of postage stamp and end of envelope torn away by recipient.
Letter from Private Oscar Bayless, 64th Field Artillery, Battery B, Camp Kearney, California, to his friend Amelia Durst in Varna, Illinois, 1918 December 1

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7637554

1 item ([6] p.); 23 cm + with envelope

Private Oscar Bayless, of the 64th Field Artillery, Battery B at Camp Kearney, near San Diego, California, writes to his friend Amelia Durst in Varna, Illinois with complaints about being lonesome and losing leave due to a long camp quarantine. He plans to return to Illinois via San Francisco, the Grand Canyon, and Pueblo, Colorado. He notes, "Well I was surely surprised to hear of Anton['s] death. he was a dandy kid. In guess it was some shock to his folks. There is still plenty of Flu in camp and surrounding camps."

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the colors'" letterhead; cover has YMCA "with the colors" logo, 3-cent stamp postmarked from Kearney Branch, San Diego, Cal.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708662

1 item ([8] p.) ; 17 cm

1st Lieutenant Edward A. Millar of the O.C.O.O. (Office of the Chief Ordnance Officer?), in the American Expeditionary Forces stationed in France, writes his dispatch #43 to A. Katharine Stedham of Narberth, Pennsylvania, who may be his future wife and business partner. He has not seen fighting yet, just fighters from St. Mihiel and the Argonne as well as, apparently, cases of influenza. "I am praying hard, dearest, that this epidemic may not reach you. I think you're fairly safe, however, in the cleaner air of the suburbs and fortified by gargles and sprays; fortunately, the thing isn't as strong over here as one might imagine and no drastic measures have been necessary in this town. Paris has had a touch of it and some other towns have been hit we still maintain a pretty clear existence."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper. the envelope is franked as "Officers mail" and inkstamped and signed by a censor.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708681

1 item ([4] p.); 27 cm

1st Lieutenant Edward A. Millar of the O.C.O.O. (Office of the Chief Ordnance Officer?), in the American Expeditionary Forces stationed in France, writes his dispatch #58 to A. Katharine Stedham of Narberth, Pennsylvania, who may be his future wife and business partner. He reports that "the roomie and I took a long walk [6 to 8 miles] into the country on the road to Le Mans (that's on the map) and the air and the country scenery gave us a better grip on ourselves and made us feel less helpless. We passed a number of charming little villas, each of them with some idealistic name, one was 'Mon Reve' another was Villa Roosevelt, and so on, but the best was a little cot with flowers still blooming that bore the modest sign 'Sam Suffit' meaning -- enough for me." he concludes, "Please don't try to worry about my ever getting the Flu. I am too tough an old bird for that and besides I don't in the least like the idea of you losing weight, My Dearest. I might go into wild ecstacies about the advantages of Cod Liver Oil or something like that, but out of respect for your palate, I will refrain."

The letter is typewritten on unlined paper. The envelope is franked as "Officers mail" and inkstamped and signed by a censor.
Letter from Captain Verner S. Gaggin, Camp Greenleaf M.O.T.C., Chickamauga Park, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1918 October 9

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708858

1 item ([3] p.); 21 cm

Captain Verner S. Gaggin writes from Camp Greenleaf Medical Officers Training Camp (M.O.T.C.), established at Fort Oglethorpe in Chickamauga, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He reports that, as Battalion Inspector, he received orders to report for service in the General Hospital (U.S. Hospital no. 14). "This gives me a very early assignment right here in camp where I can take what is called the course in 'Military Medicine,' just what I wanted." He admonishes, "Don't let the children go in stores & perhaps it would be best for Helen to stop school until the Influenza is over -- but use your judgment. It is a serious epidemic everywhere."

The letter is handwritten on unlined paper. The envelope carries the YMCA "with the colors" logo; the postage stamp was partially torn away as the envelope was opened at one end.
Letter from Captain Verner S. Gaggin, Camp Greenleaf M.O.T.C., Chickamauga Park, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1918 October 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708886

1 item ([4] p.); 25 cm

Captain Verner S. Gaggin writes from Camp Greenleaf Medical Officers Training Camp (M.O.T.C.), established at Fort Oglethorpe in Chickamauga, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "They are sending a lot of men to the different camps when there is Influenza. Of course there is a lot of it here, and some pneumonia but probably not more than anywhere else. It is all over the country & naturally worse in camps where men are so closely housed together." He performs night service at the hospital, which "has the advantage of not much to do but the disadvantage of being up all night." In addition, at the barracks, "The school of training buglers is almost under our windows, so you can imagine the weird noise that goes on all day. It is worse than any horn or piano in the world."

The letter is handwritten on lined paper with "The American Red Cross, U.S. General Hospital no. 14, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga." letterhead. The envelope carries the imprint in red, "Red Cross Hospital Service, Camp Oglethorpe, Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga."
Letter from Verner S. Gaggin to Mr. Calvin, 1918 October 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708889

1 item ([6] p.); 21 cm + with envelope

Captain Verner S. Gaggin writes from Camp Greenleaf Medical Officers Training Camp (M.O.T.C.), established at Fort Oglethorpe in Chickamauga, Georgia, to "Mr. Calvin". "I am at present in U.S. hospital No. 14 at fort Oglethorpe. We have 2800 patients, all sick with Influenza or Pneumonia. the epidemic seems to be declining."

The letter is handwritten on lined paper with "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the Colors'" letterhead.
Letter from Captain Verner S. Gaggin, Camp Greenleaf M.O.T.C., Chickamauga Park, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1918 October 22

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708979

1 item ([3] p.) ; 21 cm

Captain Verner S. Gaggin writes from Camp Greenleaf Medical Officers Training Camp (M.O.T.C.), established at Fort Oglethorpe in Chickamauga, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "I am afraid that Verner [his son?] has Influenza. Write me every day exactly how he is. Insist on frank seeing him every day. Of course it is unnecessary to warn you to quarantine him just as you would Scarlet Fever. Plenty of fresh air." He continues, "Thank the Lord the epidemic is very rapidly subsiding here: almost no new cases today and the ones that have entered the Hospital recently apparently have not been so bad. The deaths are very much less now. I am allright and will finish at the Hospital soon, surely this week. If I were going to take it I think that I would have done so long ago for I was battalion Inspector for 10 days before i came to Hospital and was examining cases from the first. Now am on night duty and hardly go into the wards at all."

The letter is handwritten on lined, gray paper with "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the colors" letterhead. The envelope carries the YMCA "with the colors" logo; "Military Branch" flag cancellation over 3-cent postage stamp. Date is from postmark.
Letter from Captain Verner S. Gaggin, Camp Greenleaf M.O.T.C., Chickamauga Park, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1918 October 26

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7709006

1 item ([3] p.) ; 25 cm

Captain Verner S. Gaggin writes from Camp Greenleaf Medical Officers Training Camp (M.O.T.C.), established at Fort Oglethorpe in Chickamauga, Georgia, to his wife, Nell, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "My ward was evacuated today and I thought that I was going to be relieved from night duty but I was sent over to look after three other wards. it will not last long however as all the wards were being rapidly cleared out and all will be cleared of Influenza & Pneumonia in a few days." He signs off with a reminder, "Don't let Helen go back to school until the epidemic is over."

The letter is handwritten on lined paper with "The American Red Cross, U.S. General Hospital No. 14, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga." letterhead. The envelope is printed in the same letterhead information; Chattanooga, Tenn. cancellation.
Letter from Edward Parker at Base Hospital, Camp Meade, Maryland, to his mother, Mrs. Edward T. Parker, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1918 May 5

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7592909

1 item ([3] p.); 23 cm

Edward H. Parker writes from Ward 14 at Base Hospital, Camp Meade, Maryland, to his mother (Blanche) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He seems to be recuperating from a serious illness, mostly probably influenza or pneumonia, although it is not specifically mentioned. He is both homesick and angry, beginning: "Received your letter this afternoon and it is such a blue letter it seams [sic] evry letter I get from home something happens to the stores or the farm. I wish we did not have them, then I would not give a damn. As it is I am down here and worry about them. If I had it to do I would close them up, things are hard it get people are kicking all the time. Gee, I would not [worry] about them, the way i feel the hell with them." he describes his condition, his lack of appetite, and the fact he will be returning to his unit soon, although he would like to come home for a visit: "I am so week when I walk to the other end of the porch I am tired out I have no apetit I do not feel hungry nothing tastes good. I expect to get out of the hospital by Tuesday. But no such luck of coming home for a rest. back to the Company to drill." The author's full name is surmised from 1920 census records, which list Edward H. (then age 27) as a farmer living in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with his mother, Blanche, and father, Edward T. Parker, a merchant for a grocery company.

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper with "American Red Cross, Base Hospital, Camp Meade, Md." letterhead. The envelope is printed in the same letterhead information; Chattanooga, Tenn. cancellation.
Letter from Lucile Eagan of New Comerstown, Ohio, to Lt. R.E. Lancaster, Austin, Texas, 1918 October 24

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7268940

1 item ([8] p.) ; 21 cm + with envelope

Lucile "Peggie" Eagan of New Comerstown, Ohio, writes to "Sweetheart of mine," Lt. Roydon E. Lancaster, while he is in Austin, Texas. She describes working at the Red Cross making compresses; her mother is "head lady of the department of surgical dressings" and inspects all the work before it leaves for New York. "I hope it won't be necessary for them to use any more dressings but I can't be optimistic enough to believe that the Germans are sincere in wanting peace. I believe we should go on until we have planted the American Flag in Berlin. I am afraid if we don't finish them now we will have to later on -- in about forty years or less time. I would be glad to have peace and I know it is coming as the Germans are losing ground every day but I don't want a temporary peace. I may be wrong about this and I hope I am but I don't think you will be out of a job very soon." She changes subjects, asking: "How is the 'flu' down there? We have about 20 new cases here and several cases of diphtheria. Two deaths yesterday from black diphtheria. The schools, churches, confectioneries, pool room, motion picture show and other places of this time have been closed for two weeks. Every precaution is being taken to keep the disease from spreading. We have been using Lysol, a disinfectent [sic] around the house and are gargling our throats two or three times a day."

The letter is handwritten on plain, unlined paper.
Letter from P. McEnaney, Bay State Street Railway Company, Lowell, Massachusetts, to John J. Kelley, Co. I, Section 2, 4th Regiment, Charleston, South Carolina, 1918 October 20

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7437282

1 item ([4] p.); 28 cm + with envelope

P. McEnaney, a claim agent (which he humorously writes and highlights as "clam agent") for the Bay State Street Railway Company, Lowell, Massachusetts, writes to his friend and, apparently, former colleague John J. Kelley, at Co. 1, Section 2, 4th Regiment, Charleston, South Carolina, with news from his hometown, concentrating on the influenza epidemic. "I have had a tough time since you left me, John. that in fl u en za has cleaned out my old home in No. Chelmsford." He recounts more than a dozen cases or deaths. "Joe terry and his wife and infant son went down with it and i went over there and took the oldest children home with me to see if I could prevent them from taking it. I took them home on Sunday the 13th and they were down with it that night and thank God we pulled them through it and they are coming along fine. My boy caught it from them and at the present time he is awful sick, his fever stays at 104 and he cannot speak or hardly move but Dr Hoban told me today that he is going to come out of it sure. Well John I do not know if you keep in touch with the deaths in Lowell or not but it is something awful. Connie Griffin is dead and buried. Mort Lems is very low. Harry Morrell and Charlie Tilton are having a hard go of it. Pat Fells is very sick. Geo. Gallagher lost one of his children. Pat Hammersley's boy is dead and the rest of the family is very sick. I could not commence to tell you all I know. There is just one long string of funerals every day at every home going by the square. Every house I go to on a case has either a sick one in it or is just after burying someone. The city is closed up tight. No shows, schools, saloons are open. Stores are on curtailed hours, no meetings of any kind. For the first time in history the Catholic churches closed their doors to-day and no services were held."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper. The envelope bears the pre-printed address of the "Bay State St. Ry. Co."
Letter from [Las Quidchen?], Grand Cayman, to the W.W. Gavitt Medical Co.,
1918 December 9

[Las Quidchen?], in Grand Cayman, writes to the W.W. Gavitt Medical Company (Topeka, Kansas),
indicating that the company's letter of December 5th was received followed by their tablets. "At
present, times are quite dull but I trust they will soon brighten up. I hope that you have been spared
from the dreadfull [sic] scourge Influenza as so far through strict Quarntien [i.e., quarantine] We have
been able to keep it out of our Island."

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper.
Letter from Mrs. M.C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H.D. Myers at the Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1918 October 10

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7710530

1 item ([4] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Letter from Mrs. M. (Mary) C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H. (Herbert) D. Myers at the Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. "A good many here complaining of having awful colds - - which I think may be a light form of the Spanish Influenza, Everything is under quarantine all schools in the State are closed. one death or rather soldier was brought home to Rising Sun -- his brother came to the funeral -- and took down with it -- the evening before the funeral -- now there is said to be three cases at R-Sun. Two others who died away from home will be brought home tomorrow for burial. from accounts we read in the papers it is very serious condition for the public. You must be very careful -- use disinfectant of some kind -- Aunt Jennie says to burn sulphur occasionally -- a little would be good -- if any of you should have sore throat. Use other prevention too." She reports that she is expected to teach "Agriculture" and "Domestic Science" at the Township Teachers Institute, held on the third Saturday in the month, and must be examined for these two courses at the end of the month.

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper. The cover is postmarked 11 October 1917, but should be 1918.
Letter from Mrs. M.C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H.D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio, 1918 October 28

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7710621

1 item ([4] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Letter from Mrs. M. (Mary) C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H. (Herbert) D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio. She has been ill herself with a "bad cold". "I cough some yet but am much better. I am worrying about you folks, for fear you'll get the influenza -- don't try to doctor yourself -- only with very simple remedies. The danger is a weakened heart. We are exposed to the disease every day in handling the mail and handling money. People come to the store sometimes I think they have it. There are several cases around us -- two at the house next to the North's -- and in one family about 1 1/2 mi below us there are seven sick with it -- three other families near only one in each have it. None so far have been fatal, in this section. Our schools still closed -- this the 4th week. No examinations -- teachers' Institute church or Sunday school. I do not think there would be any danger in you folks coming Saturday not any more than there in the city ..."

The e letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper. The cover is postmarked 29 October 1917, but should be 1918.
Letter from Mrs. M.C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H.D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio, 1918 November 22

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7710629

1 item ([2] p.); 13 cm + with envelope

Letter from Mrs. M. (Mary) C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H. (Herbert) D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio, with an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner. "Don't know any more about the school opening -- several light cases influenza around us. Vevay had to close their schools again -- 300 cases in Madison. Wearing masks in Indianapolis -- but we are not going to have it if we can prevent it. I hope none of you will get it."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined card. The cover is postmarked 22 November 1917, but should be 1918. The letter is accompanied by a handwritten note ([2] p.) dated 20 October 1918 from Edith to her cousin May.
Letter from Mrs. M.C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H.D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio, 1919 February 5

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7710633

1 item ([5] p.); 17 cm + with envelope

Letter from Mrs. M. (Mary) C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H. (Herbert) D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio. "After our trustee having school taught on Saturdays -- for a month back -- the schools were closed this week on account of 'flu' conditions. -- there has been quite a lot of it around although none right in my district but the health Officer advised all schools in the township to be closed, and so I am having a change of work this week -- I'd rather be in school and get over with it sometime." She reports being offered but declining an offer to take a school in "a most beautiful school house" in Portland, Oregon. Following a description of a family being distributed among relatives when the mother of two very young children died, she observes, "So that home is broken up in less than a week -- surely is sad. Theres [sic] many changes within the past year."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper.
Letter from Mrs. M.C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H.D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio, 1919 April 24

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7710649

1 item ([4] p.) ; 17 cm + with envelope

Letter from Mrs. M. (Mary) C. Myers in North, Indiana to her son, H. (Herbert) D. Myers and family in Norwood, Ohio. She writes from "Riverside School", beginning the letter apparently at the start of the day, before teaching, and finishing it later. Among news from home and the community, she interjects, "There is quite a good deal of sickness around and more death's [sic] than usual," then continues with other news.

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper.
Letter from Pvt. Bert Cronk, 310th Field Artillery, Battery A, American E.F., to Katherine Hunter in Paterson, New Jersey, 1919 March 21

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6984129

1 item ([2] p.); 28 cm + with envelope

Private Bert Cronk, Battery A, 310th Field Artillery Battalion, 79th Infantry Division, American Expeditionary Forces, writes from "Some-whare in France" with "Love and kisses from your Soldier Boy" to Katherine Hunter in Paterson, New Jersey. He begins, "Here I am feeling fine and wondering how you are, I just received your welcome letter of Feb 27th and was very sorry to hear that you have been sick with that terrible influenza, You must be very careful now that you dont catch cold and get pneumonia like I did." he reports that his division received orders to sail home in June.

The letter is handwritten in blue ink on unlined paper. The face portion of the cover survives, with handwritten "Soldiers Mail" franking and inkstamp "M.P.E.S." cancellation and censor's inkstamp and signature.
Assignment letters from United States Public Health Service to Dr. William L. West in campaign to suppress Spanish influenza and other communicable diseases in Kentucky and Ohio, 1918 October 29 - 1919 August 8

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6452024

7 #f items; 10-28 cm

Dr. William L. West served as a physician agent of the U.S. Public Health service in its campaign, "Suppressing Spanish influenza and other communicable diseases" (see item no. 6, his settlement claim form for per diem and reimbursement of traveling expenses, 1919 January 23). This collection of letters and forms documents his assignments to travel to communities in Kentucky (Prestonburg, Lexington, Oneida, and Barbourville) and Ohio (New Matamoras), and to make reports as to the conditions he found with respect to controlling the influenza epidemic in 1918 and 1919.
Letter from Ag [Agnes] D. Montroy in Clayville, New York, to her boyfriend or fiancee, Private Russell B. Polly, 4th A.A., Camp Hunt, Virginia, 1918 October 14

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7711596

1 item ([4] p.) ; 17 cm + with envelope

Ag [Agnes] D. Montroy of Clayville, New York writes to Private Russell B. Polly in the 4th A.A. (Anti Aircraft artillery unit?) at Camp Hunt, Virginia, care of 6th casual Company. The letter was returned for insufficient address. "How are you to-day? I suppose you are happy because you are overseas at last." After reporting news from home she muses, "I wonder how much longer the war will last. That is my eternal question. Utica is quarantined for Spanish Influenza. In wanted to go Saturday, but I hate to take chances as i can't possibly lose weight."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper.
Letter from Private Russell B. Polly, Battery D, 302 F.A., Am. E.F., France, to his girlfriend or fiancé, Agnes Montroy in Clayville, New York, 1918 December 5

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7711624

1 item ([5] p.) ; 22 cm + with envelope

Private Russell B. Polly, Battery D, 302d Field Artillery, American Expeditionary Force, France, writes to his girlfriend or fiancé, Agnes Montroy in Clayville, New York.

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper with American YMCA "On active service with the American Expeditionary Force" letterhead. The cover, franked "Soldier Mail" by hand, is stamped and signed by the censor, A.H. Boardman, a 1st Lieut. in the 202d Field Artillery. He reports receipt of her two letters mailed October 29 to Camp Hunt, noting, "That was the night that we left camp Souge for the front and it is one of the dates that I wont forget right away." He continues, "You must have quite a time with the Spanish influenza to be sick in bed with it and I am awful glad that you were none of the lucky ones to pull through. They certainly buried a lot of the boys over here with it. I think I wrote you about my chum dieing at camp Souge with it. While at camp Hunt I must have had it for when I went to bed, I had the chills and about an hour after I had been to bed I would be burning up with a fever, I ached all over and I couldn't eat anything but I managed to pull through with out going in the hospital. I never wished to be home so much in my life as i did that week. If I had been home I would have been in bed but in the army a fellow keeps going till he is about ready to drop."
Spanish influenza
[Saint Paul : Minnesota Public Health Association, 1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7335892

1 sheet ([2] p.) ; 23 cm

Abstracted by Minn. Public Health Association, from Bulletin no. 37, Division of Sanitation, Department of the navy; quoted in Pub. Health reports, U.S.P.H.S., Sept. 13, 1918. (Prepared at request of Northern Division, American Red Cross.)". The original publication presumably is "Notes on preventive medicine for medical officers, United States Navy. (Navy medical bulletin) Instructions to medical officers.

Board of Health (Montclair, N.J.)
Contagious disease report
[S.l. : s.n., 1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7708319

1 postcard; 9 x 14 cm

Pre-printed, self-addressed postcard, with printed postage, for a physician to complete a contagious disease case report, indicating a patient's name, residence, school attended, and beginning date of the sickness. The reported illness could be checked or otherwise marked on a printe list, at left. The completed card was mailed to "Board of Health, Municipal Building, Montclair, N.J."

Letter from Arthur E. Wise, Durbin, Florida, to his brother, R.U. Wise, in Live Oak, Fla., 1918 October 21

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7597645

1 item ([1] p.) ; 28 cm + with envelope

Arthur E. Wise, at the Cummer Lumber Company camp in Durbin, Florida, writes to his brother, R.U. Wise, in Live Oak, Florida. He writes: "Dear Bro: ... You sure better take care of your self while they is so much 'flue.' around. I have been exposed to it for over a week. Nearly every Negro in the camp is down. They is hardly enough well ones to wait on the sick ones. ... This camp has been shut down for several days account sickness Take care of your self and ans [answer?] soon."

he Cummer Lumber Company of Jacksonville, Florida, and its successor, Cummer Sons Cypress Company, owned several steam locomotives which were primarily used to transfer logs from the woods to the mills and to switch cars of logs and lumber on the mill properties" (http://gardens.cummermuseum.org/cummer-history/, accessed 6 October 2015). The writer of this letter probably worked at a lumber camp, with Durbin being the rail station or crossing.

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper with "Cummer Lumber Company" letterhead, "Form 104 3-14-18 20m Drew 330462". The cover, postmarked from Durbin, has the printed return address "Cummer Lumber Company, Jacksonville, Florida"; the writer crossed-out the company name and replaced it with his own, and replaced "Jacksonville" with "Durbin". It is addressed c/o Mr. S.J. White.
Daily diary of Mrs. B.F. Slater, living near Cooperstown, New York, 1919

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7404731

1 v.; 10 cm

Mrs. B.F. Slater (identified by the seller, based on accompanying found items), living near Cooperstown, New York, records daily weather, work, visits, and attendance at church and social events. Many activities were recorded in brief: Sewed; "sewed & fussed"; washing; canning; "ironed & fussed"; moping [i.e., mopping]; sewing, threshing, loading, or turning oats; dropping, hilling, or digging potatoes; tapping trees, gathering sap, cleansing or canning syrup. January 3: "Snowed. Spent the day home. Men worked on bob sleigh." -- January 18: "Pleasant. Spent the day home. B. helped saw wood for William Fitch they had a wood bee." -- February 2: "Snowy. The 'Old Bear' saw his shadow." -- December 17: "24 [degrees] below zero. Mended & worked & shivered." -- January 10 contains the writer's first reports of influenza in the year: "Windy. Claude Cook, Pauline Van Duesen & Mrs. Skinner died with the 'flu'. Mr. Thoma died. Dad & mother & uncle Wellman were here to supper. B. drew logs. Churned." Over the next three weeks, Mrs. Slater reported five more deaths, four funerals, and one wedding.

The printed volume, titled "Excelsior Diary 1919" with no imprint, contains monthly calendars for 1919 as well as information about postage rates, church calendar, eclipses, foretelling the weather, combinations of colors, foreign coins, the metric system, poisons and antidotes, help in accidents, weights and measures, to tell time of tide, principal cities [1910 populations], business law, weekly table of wages, rate of income; table for computing interest, and things easily forgotten. The diary section consists of three days per page, with day of the week, date, and "Wea. Ther.", printed for each day. At the end are ledgers for addresses and telephone numbers, visits, and cash accounts, concluding with a printed calendar for 1920. The volume is bound in limp charcoal cloth, blindstamped "Excelsior Diary", with a cloth tongue-and loop closure.
Collection of letters and documents about the military service and death by influenza and pneumonia of Private Charles M.P. Little of Dunnegan, Missouri, at Headquarters Company, 29th Field Artillery, 10th Division, U.S. Army, Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas, 1918-1928

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7625845

21 items; 14-27 cm

Private Charles (Chas.) Millard P. Little of Dunnegan, Missouri, served in several battalions, settling into Headquarters Company, 29th Field Artillery, 10th Division, U.S. Army, Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas in 1918. Correspondence from friends and family members in August 1918 asks about camp life and reports news from home. An application (dated 24 August 1918, for September 15 through October 1) for furlough "to enable him to engage in agriculture," completed on his behalf by A.J. Little, his father, was disapproved "on account of applicant ... being a well trained and disciplined soldier." Charles Little died at Camp Funston on October 8 from lobar pneumonia following influenza. Letters of condolence were sent by Major General Leonard Wood (October 8) and battalion chaplain Frank W. Herriott (October 10). A letter (October 11) from J. Maurice Kauffman, 1st Lt., 29th Field Artillery Commanding, provides an inventory of the deceased soldier's personal effects; "if they are not claimed within 30 days the effects will be sold and proceeds sent to Quartermaster of the Army." A memorial service and review without arms for twelve "Soldiers of this organization who died of Influenza during the recent Epidemic" was held at the camp on 22 November 1918. Later Treasury Department (1919) and Veterans Bureau (1928) correspondence concerned Charles Little's War Risk Insurance and the status of his father as a dependent parent during the war.
Autograph letter signed from Lizabeth B. Maynard, Burlington, Vermont, to her aunt, Mrs. W.H.D., in Orange [New Jersey?], 1918 November 8

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6315129

1 item ([8] pages); 17 cm + with envelope

Lizabeth B. Maynard writes a letter postmarked from Burlington Vermont to "my dear Auntie, in Orange [New Jersey?]"

The letter is handwritten on unlined buff paper. The envelope carries a flag cancellation, without postage stamp (perhaps torn away), dated 9 November 19[18] from Burlington, VT. She reports: "Tonight we rec'd a telegram from Dallas Texas saying Theresa Maynard's Husband had died of the influenza. Poor Lee her heart will be crushed, her Baby is not 2 yrs until March I think it is. Mrs Maxham who is here had a telegram last week saying her brother Dr [Bearland?] & nephew of Cedar Keyes Florida had died within 3 days of each other five sick at once an no one to help could not get a Dr. at first so Ruth her Niece got up out of a sick bed and took care of her Father & Husband & Child Billy age 6 yrs also a niece could not get a nurse. My Mrs. Gay has died. her Daughters & grandchildren went to the Hospital and I am afraid she didn't have much care; a blind husband and sick son & a sick daughter at home. I sent her some gruel and jelly and if it had not been contagious I would have done more "

The writer describes a premature victory celebration: "Yesterday we had to hustle out with the rest of the fools when the whistles & bells rang and people shouted 'Peace' was Declared, 'War's Over', O I had my doubts but Cliff said come on down and see the fun so we left our dinner dishes; hustled into our clothes and took flags Alice took a horn & cow bell in addition and we all went down street to see the Kaiser hung in effigy, heard all sorts of [noises?] enough to split your head open went to a band concert stood around and got a little cold and kicked myself ever since. Well there's lots of other fools beside us who went."

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7689735

1 item ([4] pages) ; 19 cm

Private Guy MacFarland, Company E, 1st U.S. Engr. Regiment, writes from Wirges, Germany to his sister, Blanche: "Here is your lil buddie in the 'land of the hun' now, sporting on the Rhine and living on beer and saourkrout [sic]. The population here are very nice to us O.D. [officer of the day] boys (because they realize it is good policy, I presume) and seem to try and make us as comfortable as possible. They are a great deal superior to the French in thrift and neatness. their towns looks more modern and much cleaner and they seem more progressive in every way. And the 'fraulines' are better 'lookers' than the 'mademoselles' of France, to my way of thinking, at least." After describing the weeklong trip to Germany from to Coblenz, "our head-quarters of the army of occupation," he concludes: "Don't know when to expect to get back to America. It depends a whole lot on how soon peace terms are settled I think. Look out and don't get the 'Flu' again."

The letter is handwritten on unlined tan paper with "American Expeditionary Forces. Young Men's Christian Association. Army of Occupation" letterhead. There is no accompanying postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from [Eric?] in Haverhill, Massachusetts to Katherine Butley at Misses Masters' School, Dobbs-Ferry-on-Hudson, New York, 1919 January 23

[Eric?] writes, postmarked from Haverhill, Massachusetts, to Katherine (Kate) Butler at the Masters School (founded in 1877) in Dobbs Ferry, New York: "Dear Kate: Please excuse the condition of this letter, but I am attempting to write, while in a half-reclining position in bed. I am under-going my second attack of the 'Flu,' and it has kept me unmercifully penned up. However, it was (or rather, is) a light case, and that's something to be thankful for." After discussing people they both know, [he] concludes: "Writing in bed is difficult, as you probably well know, so I feel like I must ring off. With much love, [Eric?]. Please pardon the unholy mess I made of this, but I couldn't help it."

The letter is handwritten on unlined mauve paper. The date is from the postmark on the stamped, cancelled postal cover.
Private Charles Dunham writes from Camp Wadsworth [later called Fort Riley], Spartanburg, South Carolina, to his wife, C.W. Dunham in Syracuse, N.Y.: "I do hope this letter finds you well. There are rumors that the camp will be under quarantine soon because of influenza. A convalescent camp has been set up off base where the suffering are left to their own. We can only take every caution in sanitization yet still fear the worst." He describes frigid temperatures, men stuffing their overcoat sleeves with newspaper for extra warmth, and the operation of a Sibley stove to heat his shared tent. He says that while his group is fairing well, a group of recruits from Virginia -- penniless farm boys, some without even shoes on their feet -- arrive wearing only the clothes on their backs. He stays active, going into town to take in a show and eat at the New York Café before walking back to camp; he and others are under the impression that staying active will ward off influenza.

The letter is handwritten on lined buff paper with "On active service with the American Expeditionary Forces" and "American YMCA" letterhead. The accompanying postal cover, with a printed return address of Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S.C., bears cancelled postage stamps and a postmark misdated "1917".
Autograph letter signed from Private Maurice E. Lynde, Battery B, 333rd Field Artillery, American Expeditionary Force at Camp Hunt, France, to Irene Chadwick in Marion, Michigan, 1918 December 8

[Link to catalog entry](http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7689738)

1 item ([4] pages) ; 21 cm + with envelope

Private Maurice E. Lynde writes from Camp Hunt (formerly Camp de Corneau), an artillery training camp, in France to Irene Chadwick, apparently his sweetheart, on the homefront in Marion, Michigan, asking: "How is Marie getting along I hope she is over the 'Flu' by this time. I saw in the paper that there was more deaths from flu than there were casualties in A.E.F. since the war. It hasn't bothered us much in this camp. I have been pretty lucky so far as I have only been on sick book once since I have been in the army. But that is nothing I never saw a doctor much before I came in the army anyhow."

The letter is handwritten on lined tan paper with "On active service with the American Expeditionary Forces" and "American YMCA" letterhead. The accompanying postal cover, with a printed red logo of the American Y.M.C.A., bears U.S. Army franking on 10 December 1918 and a handwritten "Soldier's Mail" note, along with an "A.E.F. Passed as Censored" inkstamp, signed by the censor.
Autograph letter signed from Arthur, 30th Field Artillery, Camp Funston, Kansas to his brother, Fabian in Morgantown, Virginia, 1918 October 13.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7689739

1 item ([4] pages) ; 23 cm

Albert, a soldier in the 30th Field Artillery training at Camp Funston (later called Fort Riley), Kansas, writes to his brother, Fabian, who is working or training in Morgantown, Virginia: "Last Thursday five men from our battery went A.W.O.L.: Two Sergeants and three Corporals. When they are caught or return they will all be reduced and will be punished otherwise." He continues: "This camp has been quarantined for a couple of weeks now on account of the influenza. All the hospitals, all the public buildings such as Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, Kansas Building, etc., have been filled with sick men. In the theaters in Camp only every other row of seats is used." Apparently the "quarantine" is not airtight; Albert reports: "A 2nd Lt. named Anderson, in our battery, and I got horses from the stables yesterday afternoon and went for a ride. We rode along the Kansas River for a time, then went up on one of the hills overlooking the Camp and loafed around there for a while. We got a fine view of the Camp from the hill we were on. We got back after 5 and after grooming and watering our horses we got to the barracks about 5:50 P.M.; Anderson was battery Officer of the Day, but I held retreat for him as I was not so dirty as he."

The letter is handwritten on lined tan paper with "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the Colors'" letterhead stationery with American flag and YMCA logos. There is no accompanying postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from Lt. Albert W. Cox, 20th Field Artillery, Camp Funston, Kansas to his brother, Fabian in the 299th Aero Squadron at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1918 November 17

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7689740

1 item ([4] pages) ; 17 cm + with envelope

Albert Cox, a soldier in the 20th Field Artillery training at Camp Funston (later named Fort Riley), Kansas, writes to his brother, Fabian, who is in a Carnegie Tech Aero Squad in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He reminisces about their hometown football team in Martinsburg, West Virginia, beating a team from Cumberland by 48 to 0; asks whether Fabian is studying to be a repairman, an operator, or something else; and complains that there is no relief from work and problems despite the war ending. He adds: "I hope that the quarantine will be lifted before you leave Pittsburgh, so you can see something of the town. I imagine there is quite a lot of it."

The letter is handwritten on unlined tan paper; the accompanying postal cover, with a 3-cent stamp, is postmarked 18 November 1918 from Kansas.
Typed letter signed from George A. Grimsley, President of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company in Greensboro, N.C. to Mr. A.J. Conner in Rich Square, N.C., 1919 January 14

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7614715

item ([1] p.) ; 28 cm

The president of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company in Greensboro, N.C. answers an inquiry about a loan: "We shall be glad to make you a loan if you can wait. We had a great many applications on file for loans and purchased over $1,000,000.00 of Fourth Liberty Loan Bonds, and at the same time had heavy death losses from Influenza. We are, therefore, not in a position right now to consider new applications for real estate loans. Will probably be in ninety days. If you can wait, please let us know."

The letter is typewritten on wove, letterhead stationery. Grimsley's signature is applied as an inkstamp. There is no accompanying postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from Corporal Kahn B. Thrasher, M.G. Co., 51st Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces in Chambain, France, to his mother, sister, and brothers, 1918 December 22

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8121497

1 item ([3] pages) ; 22 cm

Corporal Kahn B. Thrasher, M.G. Co., 51st Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces serving in Chambain, France, writes to his mother, sister, and brothers on the homefront: "I am very sorry to here [sic] of the 'flu' being on such a rampage and that Fred's were among the unlucky. I hope that they have all recovered and everybody O.K." His spirits are high despite not knowing when he will leave France: "Going home is a great subject to talk about and we all do our share as we are very anxious. Our experiences have been many and our organization has been extremely lucky through all. There were times when we could not tell what the following day would bring but all ended fine and dandy."

The letter is handwritten on lined tan paper with "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Forces" letterhead stationery with an American YMCA logo. There is no accompanying postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from Private Grant Sorgen, 7th Corps Sanitary Train and 154th Field Hospital, in Dreis, Germany, to his mother and family in Kenton, Ohio, 1919 February 24

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8121498

1 item ([5] pages); 22 cm + with envelope

Private Grant Sorgen, 7th Army Corps Sanitary Train [i.e., 114th Sanitary Train] and 154th Field Hospital, in Dreis, Germany, writes to his mother and family on the homefront: "I guess the Flu was not so bad here when you take into consideration the fact that there is seldom a day that it does not rain and always muddy." He describes many souvenirs he is sending home under separate covers, including "some leaves from a vine in the Kaisers [sic] Palace."

The letter is handwritten beginning on lined tan paper with "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Forces" letterhead stationery with an American YMCA logo, and concluding on a sheet of unlined stationery with American Red Cross letterhead. The accompanying postal cover is franked as "Soldier's Mail" through the American YMCA and bears an "A.E.F. Passed as Censored" signed inkstamp. The letter is handwritten beginning on lined tan paper with "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Forces" letterhead stationery with an American YMCA logo, and concluding on a sheet of unlined stationery with American Red Cross letterhead. The accompanying postal cover is franked as "Soldier's Mail" through the American YMCA and bears an "A.E.F. Passed as Censored" signed inkstamp.

For Medical Department activities in Dreis, Germany, at this time, see: http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/wwi/fieldoperations/chapter38.html (p.985; accessed 19 January 2017).
Two autograph letters signed and one postcard from David Robertson, a presumably American soldier posted in France and Belgium, to his mother, Mrs. C.B. Robertson in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, 1918-1919

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6424611

3 items; 18-26 cm + with envelopes

Soldier David Robertson writes to his mother on the homefront in Hyde Park, Massachusetts. On 22 June 1918 he is in France, not expecting leave for a long time but hoping to see a friend or relative, "Ru", while still in France. A "Field Service Post Card" dated 17 July 1918 serves only as an update; as strictly required by the format ("Nothing is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the postcard will be destroyed."), leaving only "I am quite well. I have received your letter dated [blank line]. Letter follows at first opportunity." A letter from Belgium on 26 February 1919 complains about boredom and the high prices of eggs, butter, and apple pie in Brussels. He reports: "Ru writes he expects to sail for England early in March. The latest is, we sail for home from France owing to the outbreak of the Flu in England again."

The two letters are handwritten on unlined, plain, tan paper with accompanying postal covers. The postcard is franked and canceled.
Autograph letter signed from Ruby Foley of West Pike, Pennsylvania, writing from Cross Fork to Bernard R. Nicklaus, Company B, 3rd Development Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade, Camp Lee, Virginia, 1918 October 11

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8161182

1 item ([5] pages) ; 17 cm + with envelope

Ruby Foley of West Pike, Pennsylvania, writing from Cross Fork to Bernard R. Nicklaus, Company B, 3rd Development Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade, Camp Lee, Virginia, 11 October 1918. She appears to be a teacher at a school, writing to "my dear Bernard" and calling him "Ben". She refers to the Superintendent visiting the school that day. She criticizes the school curriculum and textbooks, suggesting they need to change: "If the course of study is not changed I think they will soon have a lot more vacant schools." Ben is at Camp Lee's 3rd Development Battalion, a convalescent center. "So you have had the influenza, Ben. I tho't [sic] when you mentioned about not feeling good in one of your letters that you might possibly be getting it. You surely have been lucky so far in sickness. I would have tho't you would surely die if I had known you had it. A great many are dying so the papers state. Some give up too easily I guess. Maybe they don't care whether they live or not. Believe when one is sick if they do not put forth any effort to get well they are not as apt to recover."

The letter is handwritten on unlined wove paper.
Autograph letter signed from Mary Niklaus of Rausch Place, Germania, Pennsylvania to her son Bernard R. Nicklaus, Company B, 3rd Development Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade, Camp Lee, Petersburg, Virginia, 1918 October 20.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8161236

1 item ([3] pages) ; 22 cm

Mary Niklaus of Rausch Place, Germania, Pennsylvania, writes to her son Bernard R. Nicklaus, Company B, 3rd Development Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade, Camp Lee, Virginia, 20 October 1918. "Your most kind and welcome letter was received, and we see you are inpruffing [sic] strength after you out pull the other fifteen men. ... I have a lot of work to do before the snow flys, and the men have so many ruffes to look after, and wants to build a shad at the barn to put the young cattle in and put there cornfudder in, and will have to plow the dame for potatos next spring, so you see there is plenty of work to be don. ... The children all dream of you are coming home, and I my self have dreamed that you are at home, hope the dreams will come true, hope the ware will soon come to and end. to day they berred the to Mosh boys Erven and Albert, both died with the Influinza, and one of there wifes are in the Galeton Hospital with the Influinza, to bad. There are so many people are dieing."

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined wove paper.
Autograph letter signed from Private Wirden, Battery C, 36th Field Artillery Regiment, 12th Brigade, Camp McClellan, Alabama, to his mother, Mrs. A.E. Wirden, Fulton, New York, 1918 November 23

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8161242

1 item ([4] pages) ; 20 cm + with envelope

Private Wirden, Battery C, 36th Field Artillery Regiment, 12th Brigade, Camp McClellan, in Anniston, Alabama, writes from the camp hospital to his mother, Mrs. A.E. Wirden, Fulton, New York, 23 November 1918. He appears to be convalescing from influenza or another disorder. "It is still cloudy here, but it does not rain. Rather damp and disagreeable. There are only a few left here in our ward now. In our room we only have five of us now. Three whites and two negroes. I am commencing to wonder if we will have to spend Thanksgiving Giving [sic] here in the hospital, Not a very pleasant prospect I can assure you. ... Seven hundred more men go home this morning so I have been told. One of the nigers [sic] that went out yesterday is up here visiting and he has been issued his "OD" uniform gets paid off tomorrow and goes home Monday. I would not be surprised if some of us were transferred over into another ward soon as they get around to it."

The letter is handwritten in ink on lined paper with the "Knights of Columbus War Activities" letterhead and envelope imprint.
Autograph letter signed from Steve, 113th Infantry Band, Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama to his godmother, [1918 October?]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7764098

1 item ([2] pages) ; 22 cm

Steve, a soldier musician in 113th Infantry Band, stationed at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama writes to his godmother. "We, the Band Boys are so sad to-day, when we returned to camp this noon we where [sic] told our comrade Jim Masson answered the call of the Almighty & left us 830 this morning, most of the boys were dumbfounded, as they didn't realize he was so sick but I know after seeing him yesterday it would certainly be a miracle if he got well. Being a member of this tent we miss him so, just as if a member of our family was gone, in fact we are like a family, the eight that are in a tent know & are with each other more than they would be if they were home with their family." James Masson is listed as having died of "disease or other cause" in an undated entry, nestled among entries for deaths from wounds or killed in action for October 1918, in Cutchins and Stewart, History of the Twenty-Ninth Division, "Blue and Gray", 1917-1919.

The letter is handwritten in ink on unlined paper with the printed photograph of signal corps and "Camp McClellan, Anniston, Ala." letterhead.
Six letters to Theodore V. Leatherman, a cadet in the Class of 1919 at Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater, Tennessee, 1918 October 16 to December 8

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7992082

6 items; 17-28 cm

Letters received by Theodore V. (Van) Leatherman as a cadet private at the Tennessee Military Institute in Sweetwater, sent by his brother Robert, his aunt Jane, a family employee (Abe Coax or Cox), and his mother Dr. Kate W. Leatherman (M.D., Woman's College of Philadelphia, 1895). Kate was in medical practice with her physician husband, Daniel I. Leatherman, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The letters describe news from home, each with references to the influenza (flu) epidemic.

Letter 1: Autograph letter signed from Robert "Boh" Leatherman, Motor Company 1 [Motor Transport Corps?], Chattanooga TN to his brother, Theodore "Ted" V. Leatherman, Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater TN, 1918 October 16. "Your most welcome letter to hand yesterday and glad as usual to hear from you. ... Glad you have not as yet gotten the 'flu' - - so far I too have been able to steer clear of it - - so on last Sunday evening I went to the morgue in Chatt and saw just 122 soldier boys who were far from being as lucky as myself and as a result they were all in overcoats with flags over them." He is looking forward to rendezvousing with his brother the following weekend. "Hope your room-mate didn't get the 'flu' - - for I feel in that case your chances to get out will be limited. Yesterday afternoon we had a big service in honor of the 'Army and Navy Surgeons' who were visiting here - - had between 20000 and 25000 men in line - - some time." Written ([3] leaves) on unlined paper with eagle watermark; envelope postmarked October 17.

Letter 2: Autograph letter signed from Aunt J-bug [Jane], Johnston PA to her nephew, Theodore "Ted-boy" Van Leatherman, Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater TN, 1918 October 24. "That was certainly a quiet joint I visited in Greensburg a few weeks ago. Missed you fellows every place I looked. the 'old folks' miss you, too, but they are very proud to have two boys 'in training'. ... Everything is closed in Johnstown now, churches, movies, schools and all. This is the second week we have been off from school and no telling when we will be on again. Some of our teachers have gone to other parts of the county as assistants to regular nurses - - helping to care for the 'Flu' patients. Those who did not volunteer must remain here and do war work, as we are being paid our salaries this time and folks say we will not have to do extra time in June." Written ([6] p.) on unlined wove paper; envelope postmarked October 24.

Letter 3: Autograph letter signed from Abe Coax [Cox?], Greensburg PA to Cadet Theodore Van Leatherman, Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater TN, 1918 October 30. Coax [Cox?] writes on
Letterhead "D.I. and K.W. Leatherman, Physicians and Surgeons, 215 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, Pa." of Ted's parent's: "I am an employee off [sic] the above signature while the infu [i.e., influenza] last. Gee it is some life being a doctors chauff how a-bout that he don't ball me out for driving fast slow or any other way the way I do it is always right you know. ... Dr. just left for Hayenville and Mrs Doc to armhurst so I am the doc now. By golly I will be a doc soon if this flu keeps on so I will soon be in the Business. ... I don't know much about to write to you so - - but that girl Baughman who lived across the street ... is dead also that Andersons brother that has the market across the street died just 10 min ago." Written ([2] sheets) on unlined laid paper with "Swiss Bond" watermark, undated; date from postmark on envelope.

Letter 4: Autograph letter signed from Kate W. Leatherman, Greensburg PA to her son, Cadet Private Theodore V. Leatherman, Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater TN, 1918 November 24. The cadet's mother, writing to "Dear old Teddy Boy", signs her letter "Lovingly, K.W. Leatherman". She reports: "I was surely glad to get your last letter. ... The last month has been a series of hard working days for us both. Times are better now. Abe Cox is still with us. It is just three weeks today since he came. He has to report every night. The register on the car is over 3100 miles. It has made from 50 to 60 miles a day. Abe washed it a wk ago but it truly does look shabby again. Abe drives very well but he can't come in the class with my boys. He is very proud to drive the car for us and his face just beams when some one asks us if he is our boy. People seem to think either you or Robert has come home to drive during this epidemic [sic]. Well the flu situation is getting better now. You will recall the Mrs. Morie whoes husband works for The Dupont people they lived near the Salt Works. She died very suddenly for Papa on Thursday. Had Pneumonia and was sick only a few days. I never saw Papa more shocked over a death than he was for her's [sic]." Written ([2] p.) on letterhead unlined laid paper with "Swiss Bond" watermark; envelope postmarked November 26.

Letter 5: Autograph letter signed from Kate W. Leatherman, Greensburg PA to her son, Cadet Private T.V. Leatherman, Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater TN, 1918 December 5. The cadet's mother, writing to "Dear Teddy Boy", signs her letter "Lovingly, K.W. Leatherman". She reports: "I surely have grown weary looking for a letter from you. Why do you not write? ... Don't know when Johnstown schools will reopen. Flu is better here but there are still many deaths." Written ([2] p.) on unlined laid paper; envelope postmarked December 6.

Letter 6: Autograph letter signed from Kate W. Leatherman, Greensburg PA to her son, Cadet Private Theodore V. Leatherman, Tennessee Military Institute, Sweetwater TN, 1918 December 8. The cadet's mother, writing to "Dear Theodore", signs her letter "Lovingly yours, Kate W. Leatherman". She reports: "Why do you not write home? Have you received letters containing check, $5 bill and box of candy for your pleasure thanksgiving day? ... There is a man office now waiting to arrange with doctor to go to Latrobe tomorrow to see a sick lady. Between the red car and Papa success in treating the flu I think he in time will have work all over the county. Anna Mchadden has just been in for medicine for Eugine. He had flu. Doctor saw him once. He got better, [illegible] out and is now back in bed with a temp of 101. Anna's beau was with her, she said three school closed yesterday. So many pupils were ill they had to close." Written ([2] p.) on letterhead unlined laid paper with "Swiss Bond" watermark; envelope postmarked December 9.
Autograph letter signed from an American soldier to his uncle in Elmira, New York, 1918 October 14

[Link to Catalog]: http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163110

1 folded sheet ([4] pages); 17 cm

An American soldier writes from Elmira, New York to his uncle. It is not clear if he is on a farm, in school, or in town; he mentions sleeping late and getting visits from women friends of the family: "Since the Liberty Loan started they have had some dandy show windows around here, and to-day saw one had all kinds of war relics which a wounded Capt. brought along over. a German Army Overcoat, some german Shell baskets, machine guns, rifels [sic], swards, helmets, etc. also the French Bayonnet, helmet, money, etc. etc. is [sic] sure is interesting. ... I see in the paper to-night where the Influenza is decreasing in the East and increasing in the West. I am not in the least afraid of it as I think if good Care is taken it isn't bad."

The letter is incomplete, breaking off in the middle of a sentence; it is written on unlined paper, with no accompanying envelope.
Autograph letter signed from Emma Forest, Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania to his cousin, Frank J. Kantorick, addressed to Company F, 2nd Training Battalion, Infantry Replacement, Camp Lee, Petersburg, Virginia, 1918 November 1

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163111

[2] leaves ; 21 cm

Emma Forest, care of Joseph Forest of Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, writes to her cousin, Frank J. Kantorick at Camp Lee, Petersburg, Virginia on 1 November 1918. The letter was redirected to Company A, 102 Infantry; inkstamps on the cover indicates it passed through Camp Devens, Massachusetts, then on 2 May 1919 was received at Chelsea Terminal R.P.O. from A.E.F.: "Droping [sic] you a few lines to let you know that I had the Flu and Father had it to. My I don't like it very good I had the sore throat with it and felt bad. I am some better so is papa. they say it is checken in Greensburg.

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper, with an envelope preprinted with a "Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland Co., PA." address.
Autograph letter signed from a mother in Long Beach [California?] to her son, ±f 1918 November 11

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163112

1 folded sheet ([3] p.) ; 17 cm

A mother in Long Beach [California?] writes to her son on the day the Armistice was signed: "Bells ringing, whistles blowing, and everybody rejoicing, because this terrible war will soon be over." Her son presumably is a soldier serving in the American Expeditionary Forces overseas, for she concludes a Thanksgiving wish, "But if you are safe and well, and are fortunate enough to get our letters, I will be Thankful." She continues, "Schools are still closed on account of Spanish Influenza, but we have all escaped so far, & I really think the worst is over. Must go downtown now and help [sic] out at store, as 91 cases of granite ware came in, & you know what that is to unpack and put away." She concludes, "Oh the noise I must go and help make more, Helen has gone and take the cow bells with her. With love & rejoicing, Your Mother."

The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; envelope is wanting.
Autograph letter signed from R.F. "Frank" Towne, Evacuation Hospital No. 8, American Expeditionary Forces, France, to his mother and father, 1918 November 19

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163113

2 leaves ([4] p.); 25 cm

R. Frank Towne writes a letter he numbers "124" to his parents from Evacuation Hospital No. 8, "still in France": Not much doing now as all is finished along the lines. ... Have had charge of Mumps ward and they are getting along well. Very cold here yesterday & day before but today seems more normal for November. Would not be surprised to hear that Pres. Wilson arrives in France shortly. ... I suppose the new Liberty Bell has rung by now, & all Phila has had a big time. I hear some German guns are on display in the city. The P.R.T. is surely taking every precaution to prevent 'Flu' it's nearly time they did something. Am trying to take care of myself and hope to keep healthy until I get home. I have lots of medacine [sic] to take at all times and guess I'll pull through. ... trust all at home are well pictures look good & one of the nurses remarked what pretty girls, Ethel & Mary but don't let them know it or 'Goodnight' 'much larger hats at once'."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper with "Knights of Columbus Overseas Service, On active service with American Expeditionary Forces, A.P.O." letterhead.
Autograph letter signed from Private Alto G. Alexander, Company L, 51st Infantry, American Expeditionary Force in Buxerolles, France to his mother, Mrs. Charles Alexander in Ashland, Ohio, 1919 February 21

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163114

1 sheet ([2] p.) ; 21 cm + envelope

Corporal Kahn B. Thrasher, M.G. Co., 51st Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces serving in Chambain, France, writes to his mother, sister, and brothers on the homefront: "I am very sorry to here [sic] of the 'flu' being on such a rampage and that Fred's were among the unlucky. I hope that they have all recovered and everybody O.K." His spirits are high despite not knowing when he will leave France: "Going home is a great subject to talk about and we all do our share as we are very anxious. Our experiences have been many and our organization has been extremely lucky through all. There were times when we could not tell what the following day would bring but all ended fine and dandy."

The letter is handwritten on lined tan paper with "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Forces" letterhead stationery with an American YMCA logo. There is no accompanying postal cover.
Correspondence between Corporal Harry S. Kussmaul, L Company, 73rd Infantry, Camp Devens, Massachusetts and Mildred C. Bryant, Brockton, Massachusetts, 1918-1919

Letter 1: Autograph postcard signed from Harry Kussmaul to Mildred "Mil" Bryant, 27 September 1918: "Overcoats issued last night, and I secured a fairly good fit. They're all very short, but I suppose cloth is scarce. Hope to get our new winter uniforms soon. Heat is on in the barracks now, and with the addition of the third blanket nobody complains of the cold. Bert feeling bad again, and has been entered on the sick book again. The real solution of everything influenza is a share of good weather." He signs off, "Can't write to good advantage on a postcard." Letter is written in ink on a postcard with printed letterhead of Walter Copeland Bryant, perhaps Mildred's father, in Brockton, Massachusetts, and posted from Fort Devens.

Letter 2: Autograph letter ([4] pages) signed from Harry Kussmaul to Mildred Bryant, 9 October 1918: "Don't you dare eat any war-bread don't even think of it, your colds take enough pep as it is. Speaking about hard luck company I received more than it's [sic] share. Last sunday evening or rather afternoon at retreat there were twenty-eight men missing most of whom had gone saturday without pass. The captain was so mad he placed the entire company under arrest, and ordered no passes for two weeks. Imagine our feelings. All of us doing our best and then receiving that kind of treatment. The top sergeant immediately wrote a note to the captain which we all signed assuring him of our best efforts, but asking him to retract the arrest and the passes as being unfair treatment. There will be h-- to pay if he doesn't because three quarters of the company will beat it this week-end pass or no pass, so I am anxiously awaiting developments. I have an awful longing to see you Dear, an overwhelming desire to kiss you and hug you to death. Wait until I see you again Oh Boy!-, but watch your cold and don't worry everything will be O.K." The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy, Young Men's Christian Association, 'With the Colors'" letterhead and envelope.

Letter 3: Autograph letter ([4] pages) signed from Harry Kussmaul to Mildred Bryant, 11 October 1918: "Have just ten minutes in which to write some sad news ... Here 'tis so prepare yourself. No passes will be issued to anyone here except in extreme cases such as death or severe illness in the family. This holds until future or further notice. Any soldier caught outside without such a pass will be arrested and severely punished. is the influenza really so bad outside the camp, or is it all paper talk. That's the only reason I can see for such a ruling. However I live in hopes. I've just got to see you
pretty soon or bust, I love you so. Give a year's pay for a good hug and kiss just at this moment. Had our first gas-mask instruction to-day, and it sure needs time before one can wear the thing. Just practice in putting it on and breathing in it, as we go into the real gas-chamber next week. I love you Dearest, though I could show you how much this sunday, but once more fate interferes, curses I'll fool him yet. Volleys of love, Harry. " The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy, Young Men's Christian Association, 'With the Colors'" letterhead and envelope.

Letter 4: Autograph letter ([3] pages) signed from Harry Kussmaul to Mildred Bryant on Thanksgiving, 1918: "Dearest: Had a religious streak to-day. After I had seated myself at the table all ready to eat, that thought came to me that I surely had something to be thankful for. Think of all the luck I've had in the last few years. First and greatest of all wonders I meet you and you promise to be my wife. that surely would have been miracle enough but fate is not yet through. I'm already to sail for France when peace is declared sailing is canceled, and in a short time I will be at home again in civilian life health unimpaired, and preparing to take you away to a two-by-three and love you with all of my heart as long as I live. ... Had a good dinner, that is for the army. Turkey (good but very ancient) sweet potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, all kinds of fruits, mince pie and coffee. Enough for two helpings and most everybody indulged. ... Buzzy and I took a stroll to the hospital after dinner to visit an old friend who's been there three months. Influenza and double pneumonia were his share. Real shock when I saw him. Fellow formerly as big as I am wasted away to ninety pounds, too weak to shake hands. Delighted to see us however and we stayed as long as we could. The air there was terrible all windows tightly closed and the odor of ether hanging over everything. Make my head swim and it was a relief to get into the fresh air again." The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy, Young Men's Christian Association, 'With the Colors'" letterhead and envelope.

Letter 5: Autograph letter ([6] pages) signed from Mildred Bryant to Harry Kussmaul on 8 December 1918: "Darde Darling:- Have had a miserable day ..." She related various incidents in town, and writes about her own discouragement over the life she had as she grew up, and wonders whether he should marry her after all. After receiving a letter from him, she feels better but lonely. "Wonderful night for a sleigh ride. Dot has Influenza but is better. We must remember to try the skis sometime that are down in the cellar." Letter is written in ink on unlined paper; cancelled stamp is missing from the envelope.

Letter 6: Autograph letter ([4] pages) signed from Harry Kussmaul to Mildred Bryant, 2 January 1919: "Slowest two days I've ever spent in this cantonment, absolutely dead." A bout of cleaning windows and floors was interrupted "as an argument started at this time in another corner on the subject of 'Negroes and their feelings towards the whites.' Everybody joined in even if knowledge and speech was sadly lacking in some cases. Dinner stopped the discussion, the only possible thing that could have accomplished such a miracle. Hamburger again (real good though) mashed spuds, green peas, chocolate pudding and cocoa. Regular Copley Plaza eats just now, you must agree." Before he signs off, he reports, "Diphtheria here proved to be nothing more than bronchial trouble. and old friend 'Flu' is very scarce. Friend Buzzell was sick for a few days at home while on that furlough and still coughs, but the movies is curing him of it." The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "American Library Association, Camp Library, Camp Devens, Massachusetts" letterhead; envelope has "Knights of Columbus War Activities" imprint; three-cent postage stamp is cancelled from Devens Branch, Fitchburg, Mass.
Letter 7: Autograph letter ([4] pages) signed from Harry Kussmaul, working in Watertown or Boston, after a visit to Mildred Bryant, who apparently summered in Hyannis, 18 July 1919: “Adorable Wicked. If you don't stop freezing to death for the sake of a pair of white trousers, I shan’t accompany you to the beach anymore. The very idea taking chances with 'flu' for white tr--; I can’t get over it. You need to be punished, directly under your nose. I;m awfully sorry to say so.” The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; envelope bears three-cent stamp, cancelled in Boston, Mass.

Letter 8: Autograph letter ([5] pages) signed from Mil (Mildred Bryant) in Brockton to “Dear Darde” (Harry Kussmaul, L Co., 73rd Infantry, Camp Devens), 6 October 1918. She reports: “Am not over the effects of my cold yet. Weak kneed etc. and can’t get enough sleep. No pep. Sure took the starch out of me having the same effects as Influ. [influenza] but I didn’t give in. Also another diagnosis is my unsettled, unhappy, worried little ‘beau’. and that’s over you. or rather us. I has worried me all summer, ear, about what they will say when I tell them I am going to marry you. I’m going to anyway, but it fusses me so.” The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; with envelope.

Letter 9: Autograph letter ([5] pages) signed from Mil (Mildred Bryant) in Brockton to “Sweetheart” and “Dearest Kid” (Harry Kussmaul, L Co., 73rd Infantry, Camp Devens), written over two days (Saturday and Sunday), 22-23 December 1918. She complains that someone at the library “told me I have a facial expression like a sour milk doughnut and I’m a soft hearted boob under my don’t give a dam [sic] manner. . . . I’m ‘skusted [disgusted] about school next week I was planning on spending the four days at Miss Joe’s whether you were down or not. and now with a thwarted [thwarted?] vacation doing nothing but sobbing about in this atmosphere of sickness and partiality. I get cussed and Waldo praised every breath. I’m just making my own Xmas miserable by the way I feel about it. Never again. It’s the surprise and anticipation of it that’s the fun even if it is truck.” She advises him, before signing off on Saturday: “If you get home before the stores close don’t you want to get your pipe. Wash off the mouthpiece before you use it and in trying them. You don’t know who tried ‘em before so remember. Don’t want you to get Flue [influenza] or sour mouth for it. I mean it!” The letter is written in ink and pencil on unlined salmon and buff paper; with light green envelope.

Letters 1-7 are written in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy, Young Men's Christian Association, 'With the Colors' letterhead and envelopes.
Autograph letter signed from Hugh [Robertson?], aboard U.S.S. Don Juan de Austria at Newport, Rhode Island to Mrs. Anna Grace Robertson, Owensboro, Kentucky, 1918 October 5

U.S. Navy sailor Hugh writes from aboard U.S.S. Don Juan de Austria, docked at Newport, Rhode Island, to Mrs. Anna Grace Robertson, Owensboro, Kentucky, who presumably is his wife. In the letter he says he is including a picture of the ship and himself. The photograph of the ship was enclosed, the portrait was not. He writes: "I received your devoted letter and was sirtinly [sic] pleased to hear from you." He complains about not receiving much mail because he shipped out suddenly and then was not certain where they were going. "I sent you some card from Bermuda but could not from the Azores as there was no liberty for us. The Island is full of Spanish Hinfluensa [i.e., influenza] I suppose its all over the world its awful here in the New England States people are dying by the hundreds every day." The ship traveled for several days through a hurricane and lost a man overboard, but he was retrieved safely. "We are in New Port for how long we don't know for this influensa is no joke and they don't care to have any on the ships for all the camp's and station's are full of it and they are carying a few men off the ships and they don't live ove four day's. Well, I guess I will have to close with Love and Kisses".

USS Don Juan de Austria, a U.S. Navy gunboat, "was recommissioned on 6 April 1917, and left Detroit on 17 July 1917 for Newport, Rhode Island, arriving there on 6 August 1917. She patrolled inshore and at sea off New England's coast. She arrived at New York, New York, on 7 August 1918 to escort two U.S. Army tugs and their barge tows to Bermuda, then returned to Newport 1 October 1918 and towed Charles Whittemore to Charleston, South Carolina, before revisiting Bermuda to escort a group of American and French submarines to Newport, arriving 1 November 1918."--USS Don Juan de Austria, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Don_Juan_de_Austria (accessed 26 March 2017).

The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; the envelope is postmarked 6 October 1918 from Newport, R.I.
Autograph letter signed from Hugh [Robertson?], aboard U.S.S. Don Juan de Austria at Charleston, South Carolina to Mrs. Anna Grace Robertson, Owensboro, Kentucky, 1918 October 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163116

1 folded sheet ([3] p.) ; †c 17 cm + envelope

U.S. Navy sailor Hugh writes from aboard U.S.S. Don Juan de Austria, docked at Charleston, South Carolina, to Mrs. Anna Grace Robertson, Owensboro, Kentucky, who presumably is his wife. He writes: "Just arrived in Charleston S. carolina or at least we arrived here a couple of days ago and I am finding time to write you a letter. ... We havent had any liberty at al for three months the influensa [i.e., influenza] is spreading rapidly all over the country its here in charleston all shows and every thing of emusement is closed in all the New England states and alsa here acording to the paper's the are hundreds of cases reported every day I don't know weather this has found that part of the country or not but its fierce here did you receive the photo I sent or not. I hear we are leaving pretty soon for the West Indies but how true it is I don't know."

USS Don Juan de Austria, a U.S. Navy gunboat, "was recommissioned on 6 April 1917, and left Detroit on 17 July 1917 for Newport, Rhode Island, arriving there on 6 August 1917. She patrolled inshore and at sea off New England's coast. She arrived at New York, New York, on 7 August 1918 to escort two U.S. Army tugs and their barge tows to Bermuda, then returned to Newport 1 October 1918 and towed Charles Whitemore to Charleston, South Carolina, before revisiting Bermuda to escort a group of American and French submarines to Newport, arriving 1 November 1918."--USS Don Juan de Austria, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Don_Juan_de_Austria (accessed 26 March 2017).

The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; the envelope is postmarked 15 October 1918 from Charleston, S.C.
Autograph letter signed from Private N. H. Smith, Company 14, Rahe's Army School, North Kansas City, Missouri to Floyd Alexander, Ashland, Ohio, 1918 October 1

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8163118

[4] p. ; 25 cm

Private N. H. "Bill" Smith, Company 14, Rahe's Army School [Rahe's Auto and Tractor School?], North Kansas City, Missouri writes on 1 October 1918 to Floyd Alexander, whom he addresses as "Dick", in Ashland, Ohio: "I am slow in answering your good letter but I have been mighty busy. ... We all expect to leave here inside of two weeks. I am glad that I got into the service Dick old man but if I had to do it over I would not come to a school like this. I would go into the infantry. The trouble is, there is no system to the place. I have no more idea what will be my occupation when I get 'over there' than I had when I came. ...They don't pay any attention to what a fellow wants to do & they don't let him know what he is to do until the last day he is here. I don't mind repairing [trucks] in this country but when I get over there I want to see the show. So if I don't get permanently assigned to a truck I am going to try to get into some other branch of service. ... Perhaps some of the other schools are better but this one is a frost. The military part is O.K. but the management of the school is nix. ... Perhaps I wouldn't mind it so much if we had good eats but the eats are bum. We are not fed by the government as other camps are & the guy who feeds us should be hanged. ... We have had influenza here but so far only one of our boys have died. I had mine but I am alright now. ... If anyone ever says Missouri to me after I come home I will sure shoot them on the spot. I wouldn't send a dog out here to live not even if he was a bum dog and I wanted to get rid of him. Ohio is the best old state in the union & Im [sic] proud to tell folks that I come from Ohio."

The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy, Young Men's Christian Association, 'With the Colors'" letterhead and envelope.
Three autograph letters signed from Corporal Floyd B. Eurit, Headquarters Company, 1st Pt. Regiment, Camp Deavours, France, to his father and mother, D. W. and Nellie Eurit in Logansport, Indiana, 1918 December 3 to 1919 January 6

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213094

3 items ([2]; [2]; [4] pages) ; 19-21 cm + envelopes

Corporal Floyd B. Eurit, Headquarters Company, 1st Pt. Regiment at Camp Deavours, France, writes to his parents in December 1918 and January 1919.

Letter 1: Written 3 December ("Dec 3th") 1918 to "Dear father"; the letter is not signed but seems complete by the manner in which it ends. He begins: "I will try an [sic] answer your most welcome letter. I am feeling fine, hope you all the same. I under stand the flue is pretty thick around there. I hope it has not bothered you folks. We are located 8 miles East of Lamons [Le Mans?] France now don't know how long we will be here from what I can here [sic] I don't think it will be long." The letter (1 sheet ([2] p. ; 19 cm.) is written in pencil on graph paper; accompanied by a postal cover addressed to "Logan Sport" Indiana; cancelled by the Postal Express Service; stamped and signed by censor, 2nd Lieut. Jas. L. Parkhurst.

Letter 2: Written 29 December 1918 to "Dear Mother", the letter begins: "will try to write a few lines this lonesome day. To let you know I am still living and am well. except would like to be back in Gods country again. Well mother how are you all by now hoop you are all better. I have been oneasy [sic] since I herd you had the flu. as I know it is fierce. I never had it my self but know something about it. we havent much sickness over here. but is a wounder as the wether is bad. ... we have been in this camp 8 weeks and signs are good for staying 8 weeks longer I think and mayby then some. ... some say that our company is going to stay here and run this camp do the work that is to be don untill all the soldiers are sent out of this area which is something like 150,000 soldiers so if that be the case we are here for a while yet." The letter (1 sheet ([2] p. ; 21 cm.) is written in ink on unlined paper; accompanied by an American Y.M.C.A. "Soldiers Mail" postal cover; cancelled by the Postal Express Service; stamped and signed by censor, J.L. Parkhurst, 2th Lt., U.S. Infantry.

Letter 3: Written 8 January 1919 to "Dear father", the letter begins: "will try and write you a few lines this evening well how are you all I received a letter from Sister and she said they were better of the flu except Ollie was just taking it and said that they were all sick at home but you. well dad I wish I were home to help you all I could. for I know it is hard to get any one to be around it. I am not afraid of it my self I have been all around it and it never bothered me. ... I have been worried about you all since I herd you all had the flu I have not been hereing very ofen I think our mail is all gimed since they herd at New York that the 84th was going to come home and are holding the mail there."
letter (1 folded sheet ([4] p.; 21 cm.) is written in pencil on lined paper with "American Y.M.C.A. On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Forces" letterhead; accompanied by a postal cover franked as Soldeirs Mail; cancelled by the Postal Express Service; stamped and signed by censor, James L. Parkhurst, 2th Lt., U.S. Infantry.
Autograph letter signed from John L. Saunders, Company G, 103rd Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces in France to Tab, a student at Smith College, 1918 October 21

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213095

[5] p. ; 28 cm

John L. Saunders, Company G, 103rd Infantry, serving with the A.E.F. in France, writes to Tab, a student at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, on 21 October 1918. He reports that he now is with the Regimental Post Office, "on what they call special duty", which he selected when offered it or becoming a clerk because, "In a great many case a clerk doesn't have so good a chance of advancing and it is very hard to quit the job as in most companies they have only a few that can do clerical work." He hints at his location near the front lines in France by mentioning people and events that may be understood by the reader, yet the letter passes the censor, who signed "OK" above his signature. "The war news sure must look very encouraging to everyone in U.S. as the Allies certainly have hit Fritz terribly. It is nearing a finish and we are all hoping and praying for it to end before the winter." "After this push we are in hopes of getting a rest, it sure is very tough on a fellow as so many hardships bully and say nothing. We are not having the Influenza like the soldiers in [the] states. the health of men is very good. The only epidemic we had was in last June when everybody had the 'Fever Unknown' (Three day fever in other words.)". He complains that although he has been in France for a year, as one of the first hundred thousand American troops deployed there, his colleagues have not gotten the commissions and respect that less-seasoned veterans have. "Then again we say 'Fug em we can tell em all a few tales.'"

The letter is written on lined paper, unaccompanied by a postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from soldier Joe B. Saunders, Somewhere in France, to Mary, 1918 October 23

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213096

1 item ([3] pages) ; 22 cm

Joe B. Saunders, serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, writes "lovingly yours" to Mary on 23 October 1918. He reports that he is near but not at the front lines. "Around us on all sides our big and biggest guns are giving Fritz an awful chase. Continuous barrages are going on our left and right our troops are 'going over' with usual success. ... Fritz just put one over that made us all duck. Directly over my head, bursting about two hundred yards away." He continues, "We have been somewhat worried recently over the [rag?] of Spanish Influenza thats going on in the states. I hope by the time this letter reaches you it will be thoroughly checked and that everything will be going over as smoothly as in the past." The writer is identified as a soldier in the 103rd Infantry, in other letters sold on eBay by a dealer in 2016.

The letter is written in pencil on unlined paper with American YMCA "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Forces" letterhead, unaccompanied by a postal cover.
wo autograph letters signed from Private B. Worden, Battery C, 36th Regiment Field Artillery, 12th Brigade [i.e., Division] at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama to his parents in Fulton, New York, 1918 October 5 - December 12

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213101

2 items ([4], [4] p.) ; 23-24 cm

Letter 1: 5 October 1918 to Mrs. A.E. Worden: "Dear Everybody at home. I received a letter from Gertrude to-day and I am out of the morgue again and back in quarters. When they gave my clothes back I also got two letters from home as well as from Flora. ... 'You know' I was going to telegraph you so you folks would not be worrying, but when I got back here I found the Battery quartered [sic] in so I could not do it. ... I hope you are all well. I am alright now so don't worry about me. It seems good to get out of that dump and not have to wear a mask over your mouth and nose night and day. We are having good weather here now. Be careful you don't get the old Spanish Influenza for if you do it may get some of you." The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Army and Navy, Young Men's Christian Association, 'With the Colors' letterhead and envelope.

Letter 2: 12 December 1918 to Mr. A.E. Worden: "Dear Dad and folks. I received your letter today also one from Flora. ... I have written to Flora for some affidavits to put with my application for discharge as soon as I get them believe me I will go after it quick. Be careful of the old flu and not get it again. I am glad you are having such fine weather up there. Wish I could be up to enjoy it too." The letter is written in ink, partly on unlined paper with "The Manhattan ... Anniston's newest hotel" illustrated letterhead, and partly on lined "Knights of Columbus, War Activities" letterhead stationery and envelope.
Autograph letter signed from Private B. Worden, Battery C, 36th Regiment Field Artillery, 12th Brigade [i.e., Division] at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama to Mrs. Frank Newton in Fulton, New York, 1919 January 12

[4] p.; 25 cm

Private "Bum" Worden, Battery C, 36th Regiment Field Artillery, 12th Division at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama writes to Mrs. Frank Newton in Fulton, New York shortly before his regiment demobilized: "Hello Every body! Greetings! I have the honor to be among the men in this battery to be called on this grand and glorious morning of January 12, 1919 to march down the sunny road amid the cheers of the men from other batteries to the Base Hospital to have our cultures taken. Now I am enjoying an inforced [sic] rest from being quaranteened [sic] in a tent for the flu. I was afraid of this for some time back. ... They are having quite a time with the flu here again I guess. About half of our battery are under quaranteen, but as yet they not put the camp under it. I guess there are fifteen or twenty in our battery who really have it. There were five more went this morning to the hospital. Those of us who are quaranteened in here in the battery are only exposed to it by having some one have it in the tent they were in or else have a sore throat or some symptom of it. ... Take care of your selves and don't get sick. Now don't go to worrying about me for I am alright."

The letter is written in ink on lined "Knights of Columbus, War Activities" letterhead stationery and envelope.
Autograph letter signed from Edward J. Quirk, a soldier at Camp Dix, to his sister, Bess, 1918 September 24

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213103

1 sheet ([2] p.) ; 25 cm

Edward J. Quirk, a soldier at Camp Dix, writes on 24 September 1918 to his sister, Bess: "Well i have not got much time as i have got to make a train out of here in a little while for the south. I am going to be an escort for one of the fellows that died here from the spanish influenza. ... I will drop you a line now and then on my trip. The camp is quarantined [sic]. They do not want any civilians in here while this sickness is in camp." After he signs off, he adds, "I am taking a dead soldier to Oklahoma." The author is identified on another letter as serving in "47 Company, 12 Battalion, 153 Depot Brigade".

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper with "Knights of Columbus War Activities, Camp [blank line]" letterhead, unaccompanied by a postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from Edward J. Quirk, a soldier in 47th Company, 12th Battalion, 153rd Depot Brigade at Camp Dix, New Jersey, to his brother, Clint, 1918 October 10

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213104

1 item ([3] pages); 22 cm

Edward J. Quirk, a soldier in 47th Company, 12th Battalion, 153rd Depot Brigade at Camp Dix, New Jersey, writes on 10 October 1918 to his brother, Clint: "Just a few little lines to let you know I am still in camp Dix and wondering what is the trouble with you. I have written you two letters and have received no reply.. Well Clint i had a pretty nice little trip. One of the boys out of the 34 division died with the influenza. And I was asked if i wanted to take a trip and i was sent an escort for the remains of a fellow by the name of Dudley Choate who lived in a little place called Merritt Oklahoma. I left camp here at 905 am on the morning Sept 24. ... After I arrived at the railroad station we had to drive about 25 miles back into the country. And the fine part of it is, we buried him in a place called Berlin. So I guess you can say I was in Berlin during my army career. ... How is the old Flu acting down in your camp. Is their [sic] many dieing. We have lost about 300 in here in our camp but I guess they have it pretty well in hand now. The night before I started on my trip to Oklahoma their was a fellow by the name of Harry Conroy sleeping next to me taken to the hospital and when I got back he was dead. We lost about eight out of our company." In a postscript, he writes: "I have got a regular job now I am latrine guard pretty soft. I got a helper I am acting corporal."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper with "Knights of Columbus War Activities, Camp [blank line]" letterhead, unaccompanied by a postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from a soldier named Tom in the 332nd Infantry Regiment at Fort Sherman near Chillicothe, Ohio, to Mary [Quan?] in Ravenna, Ohio, 1918 April 27

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213107

1 sheet ([2] p.); 25 cm

om, a soldier at Camp Sherman near Chillicothe, Ohio, writes on "4/27/18" to Mary in Ravenna, Ohio, who may be his wife; she is addressed in the letter as "Dear little Mary" and on the postal cover as "Mrs. Thos. B. [Quan?]". He reports: "Well today we had a big patriotic march uptown to help the war chest fund. Three infantry regiments and one of artillery took part with their bands. We marched 8 miles all told rigidly at attention. It is hard as the gun arm gets so cramped that the fingers get numb. There was very little enthusiasm shown but lots of people looked on. The day was beautiful." He adds: "This afternoon we went to snipers school and sighted a little and learned a great deal. Quarantine is still on and probably will be for ten days yet. No more cases of S.F. [Spanish flu] tho." The date of his letter may be March rather than April, 1918, based on the postmark on the accompanying envelope and the fact that soldiers shipped out for Europe in April. The writer was in the 332nd Infantry, according to other correspondence the dealer sold in 2016.

The letter is written in pencil on unlined paper; envelope is postmarked at "Sherman Branch, Chillicothe, O." on 28 March 1918.
An unidentified soldier in J Company writes to a friend or relative, George, on 9 February 1919. The soldier apparently serves with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, where "by now we are having a little winter now is about zero hope it lasts a while for if it isnt froze up it is raining ... We are restricted now on account of the flu. Guess we are getting ready to go home Ha! Ha! Gen. Pershing was here and told the Col. that he had better quarantime [sic] us before they get ready to send us back." He comments that even for a monthly salary of $200 he would not stay where he is; "Think to [i.e., too] much of my country. I sure am patriotic now if never before." The letter is not signed but ends, "Well guess I have run down so Bon suier (goodnight)".

The letter is written in pencil on unlined paper, with no accompanying postal cover.
Two typed letters signed from Midshipman first class G. T. "Jack" Huggins, U.S.S. Carola IV at Brest, France to his twin sister, Dollie, in St. Louis, Missouri, 1918 December - 1919 May 4

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8213109

2 items ([2]; [2] leaves); 27 cm

Midshipman G. T. "Jack" Huggins, assigned to the U.S.S. Carola IV (SP-812), a patrol ship of the U.S. Navy, writes from Brest, France to his twin sister, Dollie [i.e., Dorothy], in St. Louis, Missouri, December 1918 - 4 May 1919. The Carola in October 1917 was "condemned as unseaworthy and dismantled for harbor service as an accommodation vessel. She was employed in that capacity through the end of the Great War and for a year beyond. Carola IV was decommissioned in late December 1919 and sold to a resident of Brest." --https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Carola_IV_(SP-812) (accessed 11 June 2017).

Letter 1: A letter to "Dere TwinTwixter, & Co" is dated "January 33, 1776", probably December 1918. He begins: "In answer to your letter of the 10th. of December, I which [sic] to hereby state the following; that I am werry werry glad to receive the same, the United States then being in the state of war, are some-thing like that, you know I don't really know if we were in the war are not, as the only gun I heard fired was the sun rise and sun set gun." In an otherwise humorous letter, he continues: "Dollieee I am very sorry to learn of Jerry Bresnahan's wife being claimed by the Flu but if you could of seen them drop off like I did over here you would of been so use to it that you would never looked around when they would kick the bucket, as high as twenty a night, in one camp, they were all French-men, some sailors and some of them soldiers, now this number might seem to you as I have exaggerated the same, but it is the actual truth, even if they were all frog-eaters they had a home that it darkened by them going away for good, the little girl that was teaching me French (with great patience) told me one time when this flu was so bad/that her causin [sic] died with it, he was a pilote in an observation baloon at the same station I was staying at in Brest, she said he was married about a year and a half, had a little girl like Puddin, and his frow was the swellest looking girl I think in france, still he went, and these people never got over it for some time." The letter is typewritten on unlined paper, with no accompanying postal covers.

Letter 2: A letter to "My Dear Twintister", dated 4 May 1919, begins: "My Dear Twintister: Well good morning my dear and how are you this foin [sic] day?" Midshipman Huggins is preparing for naval service to ferry troops home. He is concerned about his sister's health and lack of exercise, while reporting that he is fine: "Now you are sick and very sick at that so don't try to fool the old wasp, because I am almost as wise as a tree full of owls, so don't tell me stories. Well you are sick for this
reason, I know for a fact that you are worried over me, also so is Mam, well now how foolish of the both of you, to make your slef [sic] sick over such a thing, I am longing to get back, but I must wait for my turn, how would that look for me to go aboard a ship, and leave some poor soldier that has one leg or an arm off, some of them are blind, I would be a fine looking specimen to do a thing like that ... I am getting away from my story about your illness, I know that you had the flu, but still that should make you feel that I am that much better, as I have been right in the middle of the thing and never even had it ... Doll, I think that you do not get a-nuff [sic] exercise to help you digest your food, and then you are all times in the house, you want to get out in the yard, and plant the seed and flowers, if nothing else, play with Puddin, any thing to get the air, that is all that keeps any one going, don't be afraid to get out, I'll take you hunting with Pop when I get back? I am going to send you a few dollars to get some tonic (Hyde Park if you want it) so that it will make you good and strong, come ce, like and onion, now don't you do any more worrying over me, I never felt so good in all my life, have nothing to do, but if I can get away with it I am going to do it, all the gobs yell at me for hitting it lucky ..." The letter is typewritten on unlined paper with "U.S. Naval Forces Operating in European Waters, Forces in France, Ship Repair Station Ashore, Base Seven" letterhead. The envelope, with "American Y.M.C.A." imprint but "Soldiers Mail" franking, obscured by x's, has a U.S. Navy cancellation at Brest.
Autograph letter signed from Cora L. Hunsicker, Collegeville, Pennsylvania to her brother, Private Claude A. Hunsicker, Headquarters Company, 316th Infantry, in France, 1918 December 22

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215749

1 folded sheet [4] p.; 18 cm

Cora L. Hunsicker in Collegeville, Pennsylvania writes letter number 43 to her brother, Private Claude A. Hunsicker, Headquarters Company, 316th Infantry, A.P.O. 771, with the American Expeditionary Force in France on 22 December 1918. Catching up on news from the homefront, she reports: "Carl Bechtel is having quite an attack of the 'flu.' The doctor said the other day that he could not stand another night like the night before. Now they have a trained nurse, and I think they changed doctors." She suggests there will be lots of instances of couples separating as soldiers return home and need to support their wives. She fears other economic troubles: "I would not be surprised to hear of strikes in this country. They are laying off men and cutting down wages since the war contracts are being cancelled. But the way they had been paying the people, they could know that it would not last. No doubt even at that rate the people spent their money as fast as they got it."

he letter is written in ink on unlined paper; envelope is postmarked at Philadelphia, then marked in a red, handwritten note, "Returned to US"; the letter was transferred to Camp Dix, New Jersey on 23 June 1919.
Autograph letter signed from Sergeant Theo C. Sherwood, Jr., Engineer Candidate School, in France to his uncle, Samuel D. Sherwood, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1918 November 10

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215421

1 folded sheet [4] p. ; 21 cm

Sergeant Theo C. "Ted" Sherwood, Jr., Eng. Candidate School, U.S. Army, A.P.O. 714, with the American Expeditionary Force in France writes to his uncle, Samuel D. "Sam" Sherwood in Springfield, Massachusetts on 10 November 1918. He begins: "Tonight as he writes your nephew feels rather intoxicated not by the 'spirits frumenti' or the Froggy's 'Vin Rouge' but by the good news he has just heard. Tonight's Paris edition of the New York Herald says that the Kaiser has abdicated and revolution is spreading in Germany so I feel sure that Germany will sign the Armistice by the appointed time tomorrow. ... I don't know how peace will effect [sic] this school here and what more I don't much care, the only thing I see right now is a ship pulling into Hoboken and yours truly waiting for the gang plank to drop." A month's worth of mail finally arrived with news "to my relief that everybody was well except Jack who was just recovering from an attack of influenza. I am as well as could be and have been practically all the time since I left the states. Army 'chow' more properly called 'slum' agrees with me ..."

The letter is written in blue ink on graph paper; envelope is franked "Soldiers Mail" with the American Y.M.C.A. insignia.
Three autograph letters signed from Sergeant William Goehner, Base Hospital 85, in France to Helen Goehner, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, January 1919

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8214484

3 items; 22-23 cm

Sergeant William A. "Bill" Goehner, Base Hospital 85, A.P.O. 733, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, writes to Helen Goehner, who presumably is his wife, in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, January 1.

Letter 1 (17 January 1919): "I received four letters from you to-day." He worries that she may still be in the hospital. "Well dear, I am going to answer some of your questions now. Report on the sick. Lee Bundy is out again over the Flu. I suppose she lost a little weight. ... You surely must have some job nursing Helen Jane and Parmeler indeed very good practice. I surely feel sorry for Lu and Harry by losing there [sic] child." After catching up on news he reports, "I am writing this letter in the Lab. and I can hear the 71st Artillery Band over in the Red Cross but they are knowing playing 'Smiles' and Everything which have made quite a hit in the A.E.F." The letter (2 folded sheets ([8] p.; 22 cm) is written in ink on lined paper with "American YMCA On Active Service in the American Expeditionary Force" letterhead; the envelope is printed "Base Hospital no." which is completed "85", and franked with a printed line, "Officer Mail" which is struck through and corrected by hand, "Soldiers Mail"; a censor's inkstamp and signature are partially torn-away.

Letter 2 (19 January 1919): Your letter of Dec 29th received [sic] and I am surely glad to learn that you are out of the hospital. What did they have you in for? The Flu?" He reports about being unsuccessful in his attempts to locate a woman named June, nearby, then hearing that she went to Chaumont. "I have a scheme figured out when I go on my leave I am going to request to go to Dijon and Nice. Chaumont is in the restricted area for leaves and of course no one is allowed to go there on account of General Hdq. being located there." The letter (2 sheets ([4] p.; 23 cm) is written in ink on unlined paper with "American Red Cross, on Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force" letterhead; the envelope is printed "A.R.C." and "A.E.F.", hand-franked "Soldiers Mail" and cancelled "U.S. Army Postal Service", with a censor's inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner.

Letter 3 (28 January 1919): "My dear Helen: I received six letters from you yesterday dated for Jan 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 3." About his work, he explains, Dear I have been very busy since arriving here I have not been out of the Lab earlier than 11 00 at night since I have been here. We have eight P.M. and that has kept three of the men very busy on [flunting?] and preserving specimens. Had a post today on a case of influenza. Speaking of Flu we are experimenting on a new culture and antitoxin and that is on my line of work. There was a Capt from the Central Lab in tonight and gave us some pure culture and
took what he had back to the States, leaving tonight at 11 45. Dear I have had but very little time to think of anything but work and getting things lined up for the next day." He continues by describing a case of diphtheria in the nurses quarters, "And my friend Miss [Kudmin?] has shown an unusual reaction, so we had her [use?] a clinic the rest of the evening had our artist make a sketch from it awe sure did have some fun." The letter (3 sheets ([6] p.; 23 cm) is written in ink on unlined paper with "American Red Cross, on Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force" letterhead; the envelope has a typewritten "Soldiers Mail" franking and cancelled "U.S. Army Postal Service", with a censor's inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner.
Autograph letter signed from Corporal Kahn B. Thrasher, M.G. Co., 51st Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces in Chambain, France, to his mother, sister, and brothers, 1918 December 22

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215165

1 folded sheet ([3] p.) ; 21 cm

Sergeant M. H. "Dick" Dickson, Corps Observation Group, 1st Army, A.P.O. 758, with American Expeditionary Forces in Trampot, France writes to Sergeant William "Bill" Goehner, Base Hospital 85, A.P.O. 733, on 15 February 1919: "Have a few minutes from my 'work' this afternoon & have some news which I think will interest you." He reports finding their friend a shared friend in a hospital in Chamont, recovering from a cold. He concludes: "Had a letter from home the other day but as you say its [sic] mostly about the 'Flu' etc. No news in particular."

The letter is written in pencil on unlined paper; envelope is franked by hand "Soldiers Mail" and cancelled on February 18, with a censor's inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner.
Autograph letter signed from Don Sistare, Signal Corps, in New Haven, Connecticut to his parents in Springfield, Massachusetts, 1918 October 11

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215166

1 sheet ; 23 cm

Don Sistare, in the Signal Corps (Signal Officers Training School at Yale University?), in New Haven, Connecticut writes to his parents in Springfield, Massachusetts on 11 October 1918 about being busy with his training: "Just a few lines tonight to let you know I am feeling just grand. But busy as the divel[sic]. I could write a lot -- if I had the time. Well, the influenza is rapidly decreasing and I am taking every precaution to prevent it. Had a secret -- now that it is diminishing -- We have had about 60 men out of 212 in the hospital. But none however are seriously ill."
Autograph letter signed from Reggie Sistare, a Naval Air Observer in the American Expeditionary Forces in France, to his mother, Mrs. F.R. Sistare, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1918 November 10

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215167

1 folded sheet ([4] p.) ; 17 cm

Reggie "Reg" Sistare, a Naval Air Observer in the American Expeditionary Forces in France writes to his mother, Mrs. F.R. Sistare in Springfield, Massachusetts, on 10 November 1918. He reports: "Yes I had a pleasant Birthday because I good [i.e., could] see the end of the war coming as the big drives were on. Yes I very often look at that picture of the hold [i.e., whole] family and it sure does please me to look it over. You spoke of seeing one aeroplane well I am seeing hundreds of them. Sorry to hear that the Spanish Influenza is so bad over there. & I had a chance for the Pilots course hear [sic] but come to find out I was too young." The writer's duty as a Naval Air Observer was determined from other letters sold by the dealer who sold this one in 2017.

The letter is written in ink on green unlined paper; envelope is hand-franked "On Active Service" and cancelled "Army Post Office", with a censor's inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner.
Autograph letter signed from Private Ellis Fox, 28th Infantry, Company E, somewhere in Europe, to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fox, Miamisburg, Ohio, 1918 November 25

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215168

1 sheet ([2] p.); 21 cm

Private Ellis Fox, 28th Infantry, Company E, "somewhere in Europe" (i.e., France), writes to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fox in Miamisburg, Ohio, 25 November 1918: "Well I am still well except for a bad cold. Now that everything is quiet and peaceful it won't be many months before I can put my feet under the old table and say that I am at home. & I cant [sic] say just where I am but this is nice country where I am now. I am sorry to hear that so many people are sick over there. There doesn't seem to be much sickness here at least not that Spanish stuff. Take care of yourselves so that you don't get it. The war is over now and all looks bright and I hope it stays that way."

The letter is written in ink on lined paper; envelope is hand-franked "Soldiers Mail", with a censor's inkstamp and signature.
Autograph letter signed from Otto Lombordotz, Company G, 308th Ammunition Train, in Heimbach, Germany, to Alex De Maioribux, Cleveland, Ohio, 1919 January 14

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215169

1 folded sheet ([4] p.) ; 18 cm

“Wag" Otto Lombordotz, Company G, 308th Ammunition Train, in Heimbach, Germany, writes to "Pal Somie" or "Somsie", Alex De Maioribux, in Cleveland, Ohio on 14 January 1919: "I rec'd your most welcome letter this noon and sure was glad to hear from you and to hear also that all the folks at home are all in good health. As this letter leaves me so. I don't think I could feel much better. & Well how is things around the old burg by now. I guess things are pretty much closed up now on account of the Flue that sure must be some dicease [sic]. Well here is hoping it doesn't last much longer any way."

The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; envelope is hand-franked "Soldier Mail" and cancelled at U.S. Army Post Office Sempres, 734, with a censor's inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner.
Two autograph letters signed from Private Ralph W. Smyers, Company H, 8th Battalion, 57th Guard Company at Camp Lee, Virginia, to his mother, Mrs. C. W. Smyers, Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, 1918 September 15 and October 5

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215170

2 items (7, 4 p.); 23-24 cm

Private Ralph W. Smyers in Company H, 8th Battalion, 57th Guard Company at Camp Lee, Virginia, writes to his mother, Mrs. C. W. Smyers in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, on 15 September and 5 October 1918.

Letter 1 (15 September 1918; 7 p.; 24 cm): "I received your letter & box Sat. night and sure was glad to get it was very thoughtful of you to send that stipptic [sic] pencil for shaving as I missed it several times." He describes the daily regimen in detail and reports he is taking classes to be a noncommissioned officer. "Our quarantine was lifted Sat. afternoon I went to Petersburg sat. eve. got a hair cut bought a pair of shoes with money the 'Dames of Malta' gave me." He appears to be thriving at the camp despite the work, saying, "Don't worry about me for I am standing it a whole lot better than some of them are" and signs off as "your son and Soldier Boy". The letter is written in ink on lined paper with YMCA "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the Colors'" letterhead; envelope has "YMCA 'With the Colors'" logo.

Letter 2 (5 October 1918; 4 p.; 23 cm): "Rec'd your letter last night and hope you are in good health now. I can not complain as I am feeling fine. But quite a few of the boys are down sick with the Influenza. Frank has just got over it. Norman Manhoff is down sick with it now. 'Believe me' they are certainly working us hard and I am pretty tired when I get in from the drill fields and I have lots of company in that tired feeling. 'But say'! it [is] going to do a lot of us a world of good if we ever get back to enjoy the benefits of it." He describes some difficult training but appreciates its rigor. Although soldiers are required to air their bed clothes and check for ticks, "I aint seen any 'cooties' yet or know of any one who has." The letter is written in ink on lined paper with YMCA "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the Colors'" letterhead; envelope is plain.
Autograph letter signed from Private Ralph W. Smyers, Headquarters Company, Embarkation Camp No. 1 in Bordeaux, France to his mother, Mrs. C. W. Smyers, Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, 1919 February 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215171

9 p.; 22 cm

Private Ralph W. Smyers in Company H, Headquarters Company, Bordeaux Embark. Camp No. 1, A.P.O. 705, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, writes to his mother, Mrs. C. W. Smyers in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, on 15 February 1919: "Rec'd your ever welcome letter of Jan. 27th just after dinner today. certainly glad to hear that you are all feeling better. & There is a few cases of the Flu & Spinal Menigitis [i.e., meningitis] in this camp. & We may be sent farther south to Marseilles or probably to Italy for M.P. duty. But I do not know for sure. & I am sorry to hear that Mr. Logan is so poorly. He is right, as long as a soldier stays well he shouldn't mind it. And I must say that I have been rather lucky to escape being ill so far and I hope that the 'Lord' will protect me from such."

‡a The letter is written in ink on lined paper with YMCA "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force" letterhead; envelope has "American YMCA" logo and "Soldiers Mail" franking, with a censor’s inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner.
Autograph letter signed from Private Clayton S. Adams, Truck Company D, 2nd Corps, Artillery Park in France to his uncle, Samuel D. Sherwood, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1918 December 7

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215420

8 leaves; 22 cm

Private Clayton S. Adams, Truck Company D, 2nd Corps, Artillery Park, A.P.O. 775, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, writes to his uncle Samuel D. Sherwood in Springfield, Massachusetts on 7 December 1918. He begins: "Received your kind letter dated Aug. 14 on Nov. 21." He reports his company "enjoyed a fine thanksgiving dinner. The menu consisted of roast steak, mashed potato, stewed tomatoes, white bread, hot chocolate, gravy, peach pie, and fancy cookies. While we didn't have turkey and all the regular fixings we enjoyed the holiday just the same. The members of A.E. Forces have a great deal to be thankful for this year on account of the termination of the war and the defeat of the Central Powers. The health of the majority of the troops is excellent." He summarizes his service since arriving through Brest, France: "Our unit is an ammunition train outfit for the Heavy Field Artillery and we supplied the batteries with ammunition during the big drives against the Germans. We worked day and night and was mighty glad to do it on account of a great cause. ... We went into active service in the advanced zone (fighting section). We have lived the greater part of the time in pup tents or patched up buildings in shell torn towns. ... Our unit took an active part in all the Allied drives since the battle of Chateau Thierry." From the homefront, "Mother wrote Aunt May was not feeling well and that Jack had the 'Spanish Flu.' We havent been troubled to any great extent with that disease. The A.E. Forces had less trouble with it than the troops stationed in the States."

The letter is written in pencil on unlined paper with "Knights of Columbus War Activities" letterhead; envelope is hand-franked "Soldiers Mail" and bears the inkstamp and signature of approval of a censor, a captain in the U.S. Navy.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215746

1 folded sheet ([4] p.); 17 cm

Alma Erickson of Red Top, Minnesota writes to Private Otto Bartz, 302 A.R.D., Camp Upton, Long Island, New York on 2 January 1919. Bartz, addressed as "dearest" and receiving "goodnight with lot of kisses and hugs, yours forever", may be her boyfriend. She writes: "Just a few lines as I am all thru with any work and have nothing to keep me busy so will just write to my dearest little boy. How are you sweetheart, hope you are happy. That Spanish Flu is awful around here again ever so many familys down with it. and my Brother's family at Fairbanks are all sick with the Flu. But we are all well yet. They say if you eat a lot of onions you will never catch it. and Otto dear it would not do for you to be near me tonight for I have been eating onions to beat the rest all day. Ha Ha. Wish you were here and I would feed you some too. ..."

The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; with envelope.
Autograph letter signed from Cyrus R. Lawrence, Company D, 1 Hospital School, Perry, Great Lakes, Illinois to his mother, Mrs. W. C. Lawrence, Columbus Ohio, 1918 September 23

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215747

2 sheets ([3] p.); 23 cm

Autograph letter signed from Cyrus R. Lawrence, Company D, 1 Hospital School [U.S. Naval Hospital Corps School?], Camp Perry at Great Lakes, Illinois to his mother, Mrs. W. C. Lawrence in Columbus Ohio on 23 September 1918. He reports: "Just got back from evening chow so will write you a short letter and also send you Saturdays Bulletin. There is not much news but I thought you would be anxious about the influenza. I am feeling alright today but still have some cold yet, but am taking good care of myself. As the Bulletin says there is an increase in the number of cases on the station and the situation is not as good as had been hoped. That is the way the Bulletin states it but it should say that the situation was worse than was expected. It really is getting mighty serious. I can't give you any figures but all day and all night ambulances go by taking pneumonia cases over to the main hospital where a good many of them are dying. Several extra ambulances from Ft. Sheridan also from Chi have been helping today and civilian doctors have been brought on the station to help. Nobody went on liberty yesterday or today but visitors were allowed on the station today. That is about all I can tell you about the influenza just now but I will let you know as the situation develops. I just heard that to date 175 men had died at the main hospital and I guess it is true." He concludes, "Drew $25 pay Thursday so tell dad he can sleep easy for another month."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper with "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the Colors'" letterhead; stamped envelope has YMCA "With the Colors" logo and "Great Lakes Receiving Ship" cancellation.
Autograph letter signed from Cyrus R. Lawrence, H.A. Barracks C-2, Naval Hospital, Pelham Bay Park, New York to his father, W.C. Lawrence, Columbus Ohio, 1918 October 24

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215748

2 sheets ([4] p.); 23 cm

Autograph letter signed from Cyrus R. Lawrence, H.A. Barracks C-2, Naval Hospital, Pelham Bay Park, New York to his father, W.C. Lawrence in Columbus, Ohio on 24 October 1918. He reports: "I just got back from lunch and will answer your letter ... We are not very busy at night now and about all we have to do is to sit around and read or write. We only have 13 patients now and the nurse told us this evening that she thought they would be closing up some of the wards and combine what patients were left in them with those in the other wards. The flu is pretty well cured here and the reason I think that the whole camp is not getting liberty is because of the condition outside. The hospital men and few others are the only ones getting liberty so far as I know and we are not permitted to ride on the subway." He describes walking and riding around the city; "We were not out long but it does a fellow good to get out and walk around a while."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper with "Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association 'With the Colors'" letterhead; stamped envelope has YMCA "With the Colors" logo and "Great Lakes Receiving Ship" cancellation.
Autograph letter signed from Emmette E. Arnold, Company B, Casual Battalion, Camp Merritt, New Jersey to his parents, 1918 October 10

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8189431

2 sheets (4 p.) ; 26 cm

Emmette E. Arnold, Company B, Casual Battalion at Camp Merritt, New Jersey writes to his parents in Shellman, Georgia on 10 October 1918: "I am out of the hospital now & am glad to say I feel good except I am a little [tired?] yet. I left the ward yesterday afternoon and was glad to get out. Hope this will reach you all well as there is nothing I like better than good health." He suspects he may ship overseas soon: "I expect you are right about me going over because I have drawn more stuff today, heavier underwear & socks." He reports seeing several soldiers being taken to the hospital from a ship with influenza; his friend Watson "said that a Sergeant told him yesterday that they turned 9 000 of the boys around and sent them back on account of the influenza but didn't know what company it was." Arnold is optimistic about his future and upbeat about his service: "I have no idea how long we will stay here but dont expect we will be here very long & if I have to go I am going & make the best out of it that I can & dont think I am not coming back for I am, I don't think we will ever see the firing line for I believe it will soon be over & then we will come back with a sweet peace. Some says the camp has been quarnteen [i.e., quarantined] again for 21 days so if we stay here that long it may be possible that we wont have to go over."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper; without a postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from Martin, a soldier at Camp Johnson, Florida, to his friend, "Burn", 1918 November 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215175

3 sheets (6 p.) ; 25 cm

Martin, a soldier at Camp Joseph E. Johnston in Jacksonville, Florida, writes to his friend, "Burn", in his hometown, on 15 November 1918: "About time I answered your last letter. ... Since you heard from me last I have been pretty sick - Had the 'Flu' & felt mighty bum for 3 weeks, one week of which I spent in the Hospital. We have 68 boys in the 2 bands here & at one time 33 of us were down with 'flu.' Over half of the boys in Camp had it during the worse [i.e., worst] of [the] epidemic - all is O.K. again now. I am feeling fine & dandy again & back on the job as well as ever." He continues, "'Burn,' that old 'Peace' sure sounded good to us on Monday & we were raising Hell from early morning till late at night. We had all sorts of comic parades & were some happy bunch. That day was the happiest of my army career & I'll never forget it. We are all waiting for the day now when we will be 'Homeward Bound' and that, too, will be one happy day. I know how happy we were here - I wonder how very happy the boys are in the Trenches?"

The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Knights of Columbus War Activities" letterhead; without accompanying postal cover.
Autograph letter signed from Harold D. Osborn, U.S. Army, in overseas service, to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Osborne, Prospect, Ohio, 2018 October 17

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215176

1 sheet ([2] p.); 24 cm

Harold D. Osborn, U.S. Army, A.P.O. 905, in overseas service, writes to his parents in Prospect, Ohio on 17 October 1918: "I have a little time so therefore will say a few ..." He explains he can not tell where he is or what he is doing "but for military reasons there is no possible chance but some day I hope to tell you all. Think I told you in my last letter I was ward master in a large convalescent Hospital for pneumonia [sic] & Influenza [sic] & thus we take great cautions not to expose ourself in any respect. ... I m well & enjoying the best of health with the exception of a slight cold and we sure get plenty to eat." According to ancestry.com (accessed 18 June 2017), Private Osborn enlisted 25 July 1918; in August-September 1918 he was assigned to Field Hospital no. 333, 309th Sanitary Train, 84th Division and went to Camp Hospital 102, American Expeditionary Forces; he was honorably discharged 1 July 1919.

The letter is written in ink on lined paper with "Knights of Columbus Overseas Service, On active service with American Expeditionary forces" letterhead; envelope carries similar imprint, is not franked but is cancelled by Military Postal Express Service, and has censor's inkstamp and signature in lower left corner.
Autograph letter unsigned about work as a manager in the War Department, Office of Construction Division of the Army during World War I, [not before 1918 November 11]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215177

3 folded sheets ([12] p.) ; 21 cm

A handwritten letter appears to have been composed after 11 November 1918; after describing a fire that day at his construction unit's building, the author writes, "I am not in uniform, unless you would call my riding breeches & [jutts?] one - had this war not ended so soon I would of received a commission none are to be given now so I will only be a plain citizen." The writer, who did not sign his letter, explains that he "first had title of Supt of Motor transportation. Army took that over last week so I am now rated as Chief Material Checker - titles give you the salary but do not always mean that is what you do." He checks rented equipment (trenching machines, launches, wagons, etc.) across an 11,000 acre camp, ten miles from Newport News, Virginia. He also helps "pay the men about 2000 working men, about 800 carpenters." He reports, "I've been well - just a little cold now and then, flu very bad in [camp?] and was bad here. Four office girls took to hospital this week, I haven't been around them, so I don't worry. I do hope it will end. I lost lots of good friends."

The letter is written in pencil on unlined paper with "War Department, Office of the Construction Division of the Army, Washington" letterhead. An accompanying envelope has "Jewish Welfare Board, United States Army and Navy" imprint on verso, is hand-franked "Soldier Mail O.A.S., is cancelled by the U.S. Army Postal Service, and has censor's inkstamp and signature in lower left corner. The envelope appears to be unrelated to the letter according to the service record of its soldier: Private Curtis J. Folk, Company B, M.G. Battalion, A.P.O. 762, American Expeditionary Forces, writing to Mrs. Paul P. Johnston in Findlay, Ohio on 7 August 1918 according to envelope cancellation."
Autograph letter signed from Private Harry A. Balfour, Headquarters Troop, First Army Corps, American Expeditionary Forces to his mother, Mrs. J. S. Balfour, Chicago, Illinois, 1918 March 31

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8215178

2 sheets ([2] leaves); 23 cm

Private Harry A. Balfour, Headquarters Troop, First Army Corps, American Expeditionary Forces writes to his mother, Mrs. J. S. Balfour in Chicago, Illinois on 31 March 1918. He writes: "Our old co. has been split up ... If I only had the experience of being an Auto truck, Touring car of Motor cycle driver or even a horse man Id [sic] stand a show of staying with them. Maybe my five years as shipping clerk might help me out. This is a good outfit. Lots of the boys are from Washington State. It used to be the 41st Cavalry. ...At present we are quarantined & cannot get out."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper with "National War Work Council, Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States 'With the Colors'" letterhead; envelope, printed in brown with an illustration of a soldier with his rifle at attention in front of a tent, is franked by hand, "Soldiers Mail", and cancelled, also with a censor's inkstamp and signature in the lower left corner..
Two autograph letters signed from Mrs. F. O. O'Donnell, Beloit, Wisconsin to her son, Private Richard O'Donnell, Company G, 162nd Infantry, Romsey, England, 1918 November 1 and December 9

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8220896

2 items ([4], [6] leaves : photo. ; 21 cm


Letter 1 (1 November 1918): Mrs. O'Donnell complains about not receiving his letters, if he is writing them. She reports: "Well, the 'Flu' is decreasing here and the Shows and everything expects to open Nov. 4. there has been a lot of it here. ... I do hope peace will be soon. todays papers say that Turkey is out of it now and Austria also so your Father thinks it will not last long now I havent any news. I don't go out much I am afraid of the 'Flues' I got a new parlor lamp. It's a piano lamp with a rose silk shade a great big one I know you would like it. Well I must close and hope to hear from you soon."
The letter ([4] leaves) is written in pencil on lined paper; the envelope bears a three-cent stamp cancelled in Beloit, Wis.

Letter 2 (9 December 1918): Mrs. O'Donnell writes: "I received your letter written Nov 14 and I was so glad to hear you were well I have worried for fear you would get the Flu, it has been terrable [sic] in the Camps here there has been more Soldiers died of it than were killed in action and not alone them but hundreds of others But its very bad here now but not many deaths from it The Drs are called at once and if the patient goes at once to bed and stays there, there isnt any danger unless they get cold again". The letter is accompanied by a snapshot photograph of two generations of casually-dressed men and a very young child, standing in front of a clapboard-sided house. The letter ([6] leaves) is written on lined paper; the envelope bears a three-cent stamp cancelled in Beloit, Wis. as well as Romsey on 28 Dec and is forwarded by hand to Liverpool; it also carries a "Hurry Up! This is for a Soldier[,] Infantry Branch" label.
Autograph letter signed from Nellie Neuby, Penn Yan, New York to Private John H. Sorensen, Battery B, 36th Field Artillery, Camp McClellan, Alabama, 1919 January 12

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8220909

2 sheets ([3] p.); 20 cm

Nellie Neuby in Penn Yan, New York writes to Private John H. Sorensen, Battery B, 36th Field Artillery, Camp McClellan, Alabama on 12 January 1919: "Dear Friend: Received your card and I was glad to hear from you." She apologizes for writing in pencil instead of ink because she is balancing a baby on her lap. She fears that Willard - her husband? - will not return from the war: "I didn't think that morning would be the last time I would see him. they have heard from Ben so Helen said; I can't give up but what Willard is coming home." Her mother telephoned and said she and others had colds: "I havent talk with them since. but hope they are getting better. Maby [sic] it was the flu. There are a good many cases around there just now I don't care to get it. So I stay in pretty close, I don't want the baby to get it."

The letter is written in pencil on lined paper; the envelope's 3-cent stamp is cancelled from Penn Yan, N.Y.
Two autograph letters signed from Lulu M.S., Rochester, New York to Private J. Herman Sorensen, Battery B, 36th Field Artillery, Camp McClellan, Alabama, 1918 November 24 and December 27

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8220915

2 items ([9] p.; [8] p.); 17-18 cm

L. "Lulu" M.S. in Rochester, New York, writes to "Dear Friend Herman", Private J. Herman Sorensen, Battery B, 36th Field Artillery in Camp McClellan, Alabama on 24 November and 27 December 1918.

Letter 1 ([3] folded sheets ([9] p.); 18 cm): Lulu writes on 24 November 1918: "I received your letters O.K. and they were very welcome indeed of course. ... Yes, the 'flu' has taken away a lot of people in R. [Rochester] as well as other places but I have been very fortunate thus far I have had a few colds which I got right after and cured I was in bed with one of them a day and a half and I felt miserable that I was doomed to have the 'flu' but was disappointed? I wonder." She describes how the town celebrated news of the war’s end on both the "fake" and the "real" peace days. The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; the envelope’s 3-cent stamp is cancelled from Rochester, N.Y.

Letter 2 ([3] folded sheets ([8] p.); 17 cm): Lulu writes on 27 December 1918: "I received a letter from you a short time ago asking me not to quit writing." She complains about not hearing from him, or from others, and having a nagging toothache in a filled tooth. "The doctor also thinks I had the 'flu' he told me to tell the firm I work for that I had it and I now wanted a week to rest up in he gave me three doses of vaccine in the arm for colds, I was haveing [sic] on the average of two or three a week my! but my arm was sore I got them three days a part." The letter is written in ink on unlined paper; the envelope’s 3-cent stamp is cancelled from Rochester, N.Y.
Twenty autograph letters received by Private, later Corporal Edwin W. Seager, 309th Heavy Field Artillery, Battery E, American Expeditionary Forces, from family members and other residents in and around Wolcott, New York, 1918 October 2 to 1919 March 17

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8221843

20 items ; 16-21 cm

Edwin W. Seager, an anti-aircraft gunner in Battery E., 309th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment, 78th Division, served as a Private, later Corporal, in the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe in 1918-1919. Family members and friends write letters from the homefront in and around Wolcott, New York. The Seager family operates a dry house; brother Wesley and sister Minnie peel and dry apples. Some of the letters relate the incidence and impact of influenza in the community.

Letter 1 (2 October 1918): Uncle Howard and aunt Effie Morgenthaler in Wolcott, New York, write: "So many around here is sick and that disease is spreading fast all schools and public places are closed in Oswego." Letter ([3] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper; with envelope.

Letter 2 (6 October 1918): Brother Wesley Seager in Wolcott, New York, concludes his letter: "Well I will have to close now & write more next time as I am tired dont think just because I dont write more often that I dont think of you for I think of you a million times a day & always wishing for your safe & victorious return". Letter ([3] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper with American flags and "U.S.A." letterhead.

Letter 3 (14 October 1918): Edwin's mother ("Mama") writes letter "no. 9 I think" from Wolcott, New York: "We are all well here. a great many have the influenza and nearly all the schools are closed for a week. Our school is closed but there are no cases here. Thay [sic] are putting in sanitary closets so guess that is the reason thay have closed." After describing harvesting corn, chestnuts, and apples, she continues: "there isn't much news. To write just now. There warnt any church yesterday and don't think there will be next Sunday they have closed nearly everything until after the influenza is over. ... thay say about 100 cases in Wolcott." Rumors of an agreement to end the war seem false; "[W]e haven't heard any thing but hope that there will soon be Peace but every body understands that it must be unrestricted peace. and that the Germans must give up every thing and make things right with the alies. Of course you know more about it than we do. But at any rate we hope you will soon be home." Letter ([5] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper, with envelope.
Letter 4 (14 October 1918): Sister Minnie writes: "Well as usual Mamma has wrote first and I don't know one thing to write about. Hope you are well and having a good time. You will certainly see some of the country I never expect to see." Letter ([4] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper.

Letter 5 (4 November 1918): Mother, brother Wesley, and young sister Olive write from Wolcott: "I [Mother] was at Wesley's nearly three weeks. Harriette [Wesley's wife] had influenza and her heart or the valves of her heart were very weak. And she also developed some kind of a brain trouble. She was conscious [sic] up to about 15 or 20 minutes to the time she passed away, and Knew she was again she bade us all good bye. And. passed away very quietly. We did every thing we could. Had 4. Dr's and a trained nurse every body says we couldn't of done more had she been President of the U.S.A." Wesley adds: "I have had a lot of trouble but as God saw fit he took my wife away she said she left my baby for me to love & care for & that some day we would meet for ever more." Olive appends: "Papa is eating his dinner. Papa had a fart spell but is all right now." Letter ([5] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper.

Letter 6 (15 December 1918): Byron E. Smith, a friend in Martville, N.Y. writes to "Eddie": I supuse [sic] you have hear from your folks by now about Harriet's Death it was a hard blow on Wesley I tell you I fell so bad fur him and Willis the pour little fellow with out a mather it seems offul hard and it is hard for Wesley to, but I am so glad that he has got a home to go to and take Willis fur I knew your mother will be afful good to him fur she though a lot of him. And Harriet suffard afful to I geast but the President could not of had much better care I don't think fur Harriet's Aunt Ella she is a trin nur and your mother took care of hear, and they had four Dr. so I don't see how they could of did much more." Letter ([4] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper, with envelope.

Letter 7 (15 December 1918): Gertrude Bush, a friend in Wolcott, writes to "Eddie": "Yes, I am quite busy with my school-work. We have to go on Saturday now-days. Schools were closed during the month of October & the first week in November. On account of the Flu. ... We haven't had but a few cases of Influenzia [sic] in this neighborhood. Now that the War is over you will probably be coming home. A couple of boat loads came and they made a big how do do over them at New York. I expect our president is over there now. The papers say that Paris is turning inside out over him." The letter (4 pages) is written in ink on unlined paper with golden monogrammed "G", with envelope.

Letter 8 (17 December 1918): Edwin's mother, in Wolcott, advises him to not accept "one of those government farms" because "those farms are all under water now and will need so much work to get anything out of them." "Where do you get your Christmas dinner if in Germany I don't suppose it will be very elaborate. I expect they will have a great spread for the boy's that come home. Steve Shear says that they will have big celebrations for all the sick, lame & lazy. and when the boy's come that did do something and amount to something it will be an old story and they won't even notice them, of course you know Steve." After reporting about the apple business she adds, "I guess every body is as well as usual the (influenza) has about died out. No new cases that I know of." Letter ([4] pages) is written in ink on unlined paper, with envelope.

Letter 9 (31 December 1918): Sister Minnie writes from Wolcott on "Dec. Last. 1918": "At last this is our finish in the apples - 24 bu to peel this p.m. ... The influenza has broken out again in Wolcott. Hazel Lamb has it, not very bad I guess. ... Guess I haven't told you we dried Benjamin's apples for .25
Letter 10 (12 January 1919): Edwin's friend H.B.A. (Hazel Armstrong) writes from Wolcott, complaining "It has certainly been some time since I have seen a letter written in your hand writing. The last was a card before you went across. ... There are so many cases of the 'Flu' again. We have escaped so far but don't know for how long. We only have one Doc left for Rose and No. Rose and that is Winchell. Roney has gone to war, and Dr. Bradshaw has gone south, so it keeps Winchell pretty busy night & day since the 'Flu' broke out again. I guess Doc's are as scarce [sic] all around but hope that we all keep well and have no need for one." Letter ([4] pages) written in ink on unlined paper with flag labels as letterhead, with envelope.

Letter 11 (13 January 1919): Minnie Seager in Wolcott describes several local cases of influenza and concludes, "Think if only we had a good lot of cold weather & snow it would stop. Russell went over to Galords yesterday to see if they had heard from Lewan they showed him the G. [German] Helmet and he thought it was great Mr Galord told him he told Mrs G not to drop it as there might be cooties in it but she did and he chased them 3 times around the room before he could catch them. "She reports on the apple business: "They have the apples figured up and will tell you what they were - From ours we get 1,116.00. And Mrs. Benjiman's cost us 51.00 we got 250.00 dried hat is 200.00 clear - Ours cleared us 1000.00. Some money but nearly all gone now and will be looking for more." Letter ([5] pages) is written in ink on lined paper, with envelope.

Letter 12 (20 January 1919): Edwin's mother describes numerous cases of having and recovering from the "flue": "I guess every one will have it before they get through I think Dr. Watkins understands it better than the other Dr. as his medicine is different from the rest and it seems to take right a hold and helps them from the first." Letter ([4] pages) is written in ink on lined paper, with envelope.

Letter 13 (23 January 1919): Aunt Effie and uncle Howard in Wolcott, New York, describe many cases of flu in the family and community. "[E]veryone from the forks of the road to Shermans corners has it. not every one but almost. The day Lue went from here Russel didn't feel good & the next day Russel, Glen & Olive had it but they are coming good now. ... I could sit here & tell you a bushel of names that have it. or got over it. or died." Letter ([4] pages) is written in pencil on lined paper, without envelope.

Letter 14 (24 January 1919): Edwin's sister, Olive, writes: "How are you I have got over the flue I am seting [sic] up to-day I sat up yesterday all day. I want to go to school Monday but mama said I would not be able." Letter ([4] pages) is written in pencil on lined paper, without envelope.

Letter 15 (28 January 1919): Edwin's brother, Wesley, writes from Wolcott: "[T]he rest write all the news s there is no use only just to let you know that I am well and getting thing's started for spring's work. The baby is also well & talks & walk's or run's he will be quite a boy when you see him. It seems to me that it is about time you come home. now that the hun is whipped but I suppose someone has got to keep them straight. I would be glad to come & help now so that some of you boys could come home. ... Now don't worry about us as we will get along all right but keep a stiff upper lip & come
home as soon as you can. Yours for a safe & enjoyable voyage back ever your Bro Wesley." Letter ([2] pages) is written in pencil on unlined paper, without envelope.

Letter 16 (28 January 1919): Edwin's mother writes from Wolcott: "I wonder where you are this nice morning according to some reports you are on the ocean & according to others you are with the army of occupation, so we don't know what to expect., but suppose all will end some time. I was in hopes to be able to write one letter without writing something sad. but. Pop. had a shock last tuesday and passed away Friday p.m at 3 o clock. I wouldn't of written about it but as there are so many more writing to you. I know they would tell and you would wonder why I didn't write it. ...(Young's) were all over here the other evening and Bertha says she is again to wait for a soldier boy so look out. But everybody says you will bring a French girl. but as you cant speak French I don't see how you are agoin to make her understand you enough to bring her home besides I don't believe uncle Sam will bring many Brides home." Letter ([4] pages) is written in ink on lined paper, with envelope.

Letter 17 (3 February 1919): Edwin's mother writes from Wolcott, reporting newspaper letter account of men skimming money from Y.M.C.A. donations; she also praises the Salvation Army. She complains, "Wish we knew where you were as a month makes a lot of difference in the distance sometimes and it takes a month to hear from you. ... I know you don't get half our letters. One woman has been sending her son letters with one dollar in every one as he is in a hospital over there and she has had the letters returned & the money has been taken out." Letter ([8] pages is written in ink on lined paper, with envelope.

Letter 18 (16 March 1919): Edwin's mother writes from Wolcott: "Lena Chappell was buried to day she had the flue. But there arnt near so many cases as usual it is dying out I guess." She is wonders why she does not get letters from him: "I don't think the reason your letters don't get through is because of what you write for thay havnt been censored but a very few since you were appointed Cpl. and there hasn't been a thing in any of them crossed of yet I pesume [i.e., presume] it will be like the causality [casualty] list they still continue to print a great number every day and thay said the list would be complete two months ago." Letter ([7] pages is written in ink on lined paper, with envelope.

Letter 19 (17 March 1919): Edwin's sister Minnie writes: "Don't think we do get all y our letters as you said you write every week and we don't get them but are thankful we get what we do." Letter ([2] pages) is written in pencil on lined paper, without envelope.

Letter 20 (23 March 1919) Gertrude Bush, a friend in in Wolcott, writes much local news to "Eddie": "Salters have gone for a trip to New York City and Boston. They will see the Great Parade at N.Y. of the 27th Division. They are making a big thing over that particular one. Minnie said she would like to be there when the 78th comes in May. Papa has taken our bell down the one on the south side of our house. I promised Glenn he could ring it when you came home." Letter ([6] pages) is written in ink of lined paper, without envelope.
Collection of letters written by "Tude" (Hilda Elizabeth Kenner Daly De Vaux) in Greensburg, Pennsylvania to her husband, C. F. "Jack" De Vaux in the Military Training Detachment, University of Pittsburgh and at Camp Pitt, Pittsburgh, 1918 September - December

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8110200

87 ff items ; 18-26 cm + with envelopes

Hilda E. "Tude" Keener in Greensburg, Pennsylvania writes to her husband, C. F. "Jack" De Vaux, first at Company A, Military Training Detachment, University of Pittsburgh, then at Headquarters Company, Camp Pitt, Pittsburgh, from 11 July through 9 December 1918. Eighty-seven letters muse about her personal activities; her husband's visits on many weekends; her brother Lem, stationed at Camp Lee; visits to and from family and friends; who enlisted in the military, who was refused, who was drafted, and who got furloughs; troop movements through town; and other topics. She includes plainspoken descriptions of terrible wounds to soldiers, and the local impact of the influenza outbreak. Some letters are accompanied by clippings from local newspapers. One additional letter (October 24) was written from Jack to Tude, and one (November [26?]) from Walter to his brother Jack (called "Chas") De Vaux. From July 17 through November 29, Tude seals her envelopes with a service star sticker or a "My [heart] is in the service" sticker.

Jack De Vaux apparently is a member of a military band. Tude writes: 1 August 1918: "Glad you are going to visit the sick soldiers for I know they will enjoy the music." - - August 8: "Glad you do not need to work so hard any more and enjoy playing in the band." - - September 11: "Read in the Pgh. [Pittsburgh] morning paper about the parade in Knoxville last eve lead by fifty soldiers from Camp Pitt so I just supposed it was your band that was out." - - September 27: "Glad your band played well at the Carnegie Hall for I want you to win a medal with your playing."

Highlights include: 22 July 1918: "Just a few lines to let you know the boys left O.K. at 4.20 this afternoon. Was a sad day here but the other homes had the same sorrow so all we can do is live for the best." - - July 30: "Just thought about you not having any sugar for your coffee dear so going to mail you some in this letter and put it in your pocket when you go to the table then you will have it when you are ready to drink your coffee." - - August 1: "Sorry I can't send you some milk but how would it do to stamp the cow and send it parcel post." - - August 7: "My but I am glad you didn't leave with A. Co. yesterday for you know I would be dead this time tonight. Well dear I could have cried when I read about you getting your new uniform for you know how I did love you in civilian clothes. Of course I will love you in your army suit but it will only make me feel bad every time I see it." - - August 21: "All stores, business places and coal company offices had to close at 4 P.M. today for the Army &
Navy ball game." - - August 29: "Was talking to Jean Clark yesterday and she told me she thought you looked so nice in uniform. I said 'yes' but you should see him in his B.V.Ds. Ha. Ha."

September 4: "Well dear you should see the sweet little pin I am wearing for you. It is just for girls that have sweet-hearts in the service." - - September 10: "Ray Sleppi wrote home today and said he was so terrible home sick. Wants a big chocolate cake and more cigarettes sent to him." - - September 18: "Had a letter from Lem today and they have small pox down there. He heard they were going to quarantine the whole camp." - - September 19: "A Military Band composed of all girls are here tomorrow at the high school. They gave a parade in the after-noon and short concert at 7:30 P.M. and eight o'clock a two and a half hour concert in the School. Don't know what the admission will be but they have been playing at the different camps and also for Pres. Wilson." - - September 23: "'Lady' Grace was arrested and given 72 hrs. to leave the town. Good news." - - October 2: "Having a special picture at the Strand today but you know I never attend the movies anymore since you are not here Dear. Wait till this war is over and then we will make up for lost time in everything." - - November 21: "Received a letter from Lem today and he said 30 train loads of soldiers left Lee yesterday. Also said all fellows have lost all interest in the war game and patiently waiting for orders to be sent home."

Influenza reports: 30 August 1918: "Lem's company arrived O.K. Three weeks in making the trip. Lem is feeling fine and trying to avoid the influenza although they have twenty some cases in his battalion. He takes lots of exercise when off duty." - - October 5: "Gailee Carns one of the fellows that left with Lem died at camp today from Influenza. Did you know him Dear. He was baggage master at the depot for a number of years. Well the town is dead now. All saloons, movies and pool rooms closed. No dancing allowed or any public gatherings." - - October 6: "Received two letters from you at noon today and very sorry to hear you are quarantined [sic] and not able to come home tonight. I noticed in the morning paper where one soldier was dead, one dying and 60 more in the hospital in Pgh [Pittsburgh]. with that terrible disease. Listen Dear you take the best care of your self that you don't contract it for you know I would be worried to death." - - October 6 (second letter that day): "Miss Sowash died in the hospital last night from this new disease, 'Influenza.' If it breaks out in this burg no doubt I will have it but rather me than you Dear." - - October 8: "We have four or five cases of influenza here. Heard Frank Smith came home from college sick and will walk up to the morgue tonight to find out his trouble. Every thing is closed here but the schools and they are talking of closing them. I read in the Pgh. morning paper of 35 new cases around the city. Always look for the camp news and seen there were more cases in Pitt. Just scares me sick. - October 10: "I sure will be glad when they lift the quarantine in there so you can come home for I am anxious to see you. Frank Smith had the Spanish Flu but getting [o]ver it all right now." - - October 11: "Received a letter from Lem ... The influenza is getting much better there. No new cases but 379 have died so far. He was sorry to hear it had broken out in your camp and hoped you would escape it the same as he has. Forty fellows are quarantined there for over seas but Lem is not going." - - October 12: "We have a few new cases of 'Flu' in the burg and a Mrs. Edith Stag dies at the Monahan Hotel yesterday from it. She and her husband had been staying there since Oct. 3 but she was sick only two days. ... I am going up street a few minutes tonight but as every place is closed don't suppose many people will be out." - - October 14: "George Whitfield is home for a short stay. He came with a soldier's body to Pgh. [Pittsburgh] that died with Flue in Camp Lee." - - October 15: "Glad to hear you are still well as we sure have lots of sick people here. About 150 cases of Spanish Flu around town and they are taking the
country club as a hospital until it is over. Two died last night and one in the morning. Several fellows from here died at Lee and their bodies arrived at noon. ... Very much surprised at Miss Blakely's death. Suppose I will be next." Includes newspaper clipping, "Nurse dies at hospital", about the death of Miss Daisy Blakely, head of the Westmoreland hospital.

Influenza reports (continued): October 19: "Lots of new cases of 'Flu' here and scarce of nurses. I have a notion to ask red cross next week if I could help take care of some patients. Eight members of the Boggs family are in bed with it and need lots of help as some are very poorly." - October 21: "Today the summer home for E.M. Gross and 'Sell Croft' farm were turned into hospitals. Lots of new cases Sat. and Sun. Tonight thirteen deaths in one string in the paper. ... The paper says the disease is to strike Gbg. [Greensburg] this week and half of the town will have it so in case I send for you b sure [sic] and come because I will need the best of care and leave it up to you to look after me." - October 22: "People sure are dying here. Eleven deaths in tonights paper. ... All the schools were closed here today until Nov. 4th. The paper says the churches and all other places will have to close. ... Last night it was beautiful and moonlight and a funeral passed along Otterman St, to Catholic cemetery where the lady was buried by moonlight. I sure do think that sad. I was at Cosheys a few minutes and they said they couldn't get caskets on time and had to hold the funerals when it suited them best." - October 23: "Well first of all did you shave that mustache off yet. One more day to report and if not I am going as an ambulance driver. Received your card at noon and very sorry to hear that two more of your band boys died. You may be able to get home on Sat. now since they 'shot' you for this disease. But be sure to come with a pretty face if you expect to find me at home. Elsie is still sick and wanted me to come out tonight but I haven't decided if I am going to or not. Wish you were here now and we would both go to visit. Several deaths here today from 'Flu'." - October 24 (from Jack to Tude): "We got the second 'shot' for the Flu this morning and I only hope they will let us out. I do not think I can get home Sunday and I am afraid to take another chance like I did because they might be onto me now. Some of fellows might squeal on me you know then when quarantine was lifted I would have to stay in." - October 24: "The 'Flu' cases are getting worse every hour. Lots of deaths today. Bob Wertz wife died this morning and he is in the hospital in France. Feel very sorry for him as he surely did love her. ... Jim had been sick since Sun. but able to be out again. He was inoculated and it made him terrible sick. ... The State Police are looking after the 'Flu' cases at Export and one ask me today Dear if I would go out as a nurse. Said nearly every house had it and not enough nurses. He was swell looking but I said I would let him know later, I thought I had better mention it to you first and see what you thought about it." - October 25: "Well Dear you should see the ambulances going in all directions. About fifteen deaths today. Howard Caldwell died at Baltimore Hospital while on a auto trip and A.M. Wyant, his wife, Mrs. Caldwell and Marie McCarthy went down as they will take him to Alleghenny [sic] for burial. The railroad company refused to bring him here and then to Pgh. Only move a body once. ... There are between 1,500 and 2,000 cases in Greater Gbg. [Greensburg] at present. ... Well Dear nothing in the paper but deaths and War news so I will say good night and write you tomorrow." - October 28: "Well I don't know much to tell you only the deaths in the burg. Tom Turney that worked in the Courth House is dead at his home on S. Main St. Josephine McClain died at the hospital. She had trained for a nurse and then married Collins from Jeannette about two months ago. No doubt you know her as she was such a big stout girl. Suppose you know Mr. Herman Hamel died at the Mt. Pleasant hospital. Mayme Fess Brown buried her little girl yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Bob Wurtz was also buried yesterday. Really Dear they are dying at the Country Club like flies. Jim is using his car as an ambulance. All the private cars being used for that purpose have a large
white flag with a red cross on the front. You should be over at Burds and see the cars, ambulances and dead wagons all in one string. Duff had 17 and Maxwell 13 from one o'clock yesterday morning until last night. Well Dear I will stay home for your sake but I am not at all afraid of the disease." -

October 29: "The 'Flu' is still taking lots of people out of the burg. ...I think it will be very nice if they lift the quarantine this week and you can get out to visit your friends. I sure will be glad when they open the amusement places here that a person can go to a dance or something to pass the evenings. ... Glad you are well as it leaves me the same." -

October 31: "Not celebrating Halloween here at all tonight on account of so much sickness and deaths. I am going to Elsie's for a short time and then home. Have a terrible sore hand and can hardly write. Have some dope to put on tonight. The 'Flu' is still raging here but we are all O.K. at present. No doubt they will keep you in 'again' this week. I think if the disease is better in camp and no new cases they should lift the quarantine."

Includes newspaper clipping, "Song of the Influenza". Intermittent reports continue in her letters for another month.

One wonders whether "Tude" as a nickname is a shortened form of "Attitude"; even when Hilda is ill in November, her strong will and humor shine through in her letters: 5 November 1918: "Well here I am Dear writing in bed and will only send you a few lines as I can't be up only a short time. I came home last night and went to bed and couldn't rise up this morning. All the pain is in my head and Mother has been up and down all day bringing ice bag and hot water bottle. Nearly crazy but didn't want to disappoint you in your mail so all wrapped up while I am writing." -

November 18: "Skating at the rink all after-noon. I could see them from work. Elsie wants me to teach her to skate but I must wait until I am rested first. I am like you very weak. Ha. Ha." -

November 19: "The skating rink is proving a great success. Large crowd down there last night. ... Jim was out at Elsie's all night. She wants to go to the rink but Jim doesn't know if he will agree to let her attend or not. Poor simple girl to allow him to boss her. 'Not I.'" -

December 2: "Elsie told me today Jim wanted to join the State Police Force. I would soon settle his brain on that if I was her. Can't understand why she doesn't make him walk the same as I do you. I would like to hear a crack like that from you. Then is when I would take you by the back of the neck and you would soon be on your knees begging for mercy. Oh, when you come home and I get this clutching hand on you then is when you will wish the war had continued and you were in France." -

December 5: "Sorry you will have to stay in there several more weeks. ... I wish I could tell Capt. Savage a few things about holding you in there and I bet you would be the first to beat it down over the hill. I would look at him a couple of times like I do you when sore." -

December 9: "Received two letters from Lem today and he said several of the battalions had gone home but he hadn't heard anything when his bunch would be discharged. If that was 'I', after those guys handed me my discharge papers I sure would tell them what I thought and anything I didn't say wouldn't be worth saying, then beat it for the station."
Thirty two autograph letters signed from Hildreth Heiney and Mrs. E. W. Hadley of Indianapolis, Indiana, to Sergeant Kleber W. Handley, Company K, 336th Infantry, 84th Division and Liaison Section, American Expeditionary Forces in France, 1918-1919

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7992083

32 ‡f items ; 18-26 cm + with envelopes

Hildreth Heiney, a schoolteacher of arithmetic, penmanship, and spelling in Indianapolis, Indiana, writes 23 letters to her fiancé, Sergeant Kleber W. Hadley, Company K., 336th Infantry, 84th Division and Liaison Section, American Expeditionary Forces in France. Kleber's mother, Mrs. E.W. (Edna W.) Hadley, writes 8 more, and his brother, Joel, writes one. Hildreth quotes from articles, books, and letters she reads, conversations, plays, and films. She and his mother try to keep him informed about people (including his siblings Lucy, W Kleber Witt Hadley (1888-1939), a lawyer for Railroad Men's Building & Savings Association in Indianapolis, registered for the draft on 5 June 1917, at age 28, and reported to Camp Sherman on 24 June 1918. He departed for France from Hoboken, New Jersey on 24 August 1918 and was listed upon arrival as a Supply Sergeant. On 6 March 1919, Hadley departed Brest, France on SS George Washington with Le Mans Casual Company, 1220 State of Ohio; he arrived at Hoboken on March 25, transferred to Camp Merrit, and finished his Army service in April 1919. He married Hildreth Heiney in 1920.

Letters 1, 2, 5 are addressed to Sergeant Kleber W. Hadley at Co. K, 336th Infantry, 84th Division, AEF [A.P.O. 762]; the envelopes are forwarded by hand to Army Candidate School, LeGrange, France; this address is crossed-out and replaced by one in Indianapolis, Indiana. Letters 3 and 4 start with the 336th Infantry, then Army Candidate School, then are addressed to Liaison Headquarters, American Embark Cent APO 762 Depot 3. Letters 5-17 are routed through the 330th or 336th Infantry, which stated no record of him; routing stamps might include "Unit Still in France" on March 3, "No record A.P.O. 714" on March 18, or "Addressee returned to U.S.A." in early April 1919. Letters 18-25 are addressed to 18th Company, 5th Battalion, Army Candidates School, A.E.F., A.P.O. 714, but also are re-routed.

The letters are handwritten on various lined or unlined paper; most are accompanied by postal covers.

Letter 1 (19 September 1918): Hildreth Heiney writes her letter no. "V" from Indianapolis, Indiana: "To begin with the weather--the weather man surely has a spite at us. Outside it is cold and damp, a penetrating cold that chills to the bone. It rained nearly all day. You know the kind of day -- when one longs for the fireside, a good book, a little sewing and something sweet to eat." After relating local news and talking about how morale-boosting his letters are and how she misses him, she
acknowledges that he has shipped overseas: "O, it seems as if you have been gone ages. I would
guess that you left camp about nine days ago. Soon we shall hear of your arrival 'some where.' Kleber

dear, don't [sic] get Spanish Influenza. It sounds dreadful and it surely isn't pleasant. The fourth
Liberty Loan Campaign is about ready to start. Where does all the money come from? People never
were so busy -- everybody seems to be working. Children now are so interested in saving peach,
prune, apricot and plum seeds and old batteries and nut shells for the making of carbon to be used in
manufacturing gas masks." See signs off with love, support, and confidence for him, "Oceans of love
(you know how much that is). Your own Hildreth Heiney." -- Letter 2 (1 October 1918): Hildreth
Heiney writes her letter no. "X" from Indianapolis, Indiana: After quoting from Simond's article on
the progress of the war in Europe, she notes: "Woman suffrage was beaten in the Senate today. I'll make
no comment." Then: "Fourteen cases of Influenza have been reported in the city in the last two days.
The situation in the camps is better and much better at the fort. The Theaters now exclude all
persons who have cold or sneeze or cough. It must keep them busy. I just read this, 'Next to murder,
nothing is harder to stifle than a sneeze at a picture show.' I thot you might appreciate it."

Letter 3 (11 October 1918): Hildreth Heiney writes her letter no. "XII", reporting that she is on forced
vacation because the schools are closed. "It seems dreadful tho [sic], when one thinks of the sorrow it
is bringing to many. Influenza must be a dreadful disease, especially since pneumonia so often after
follows. Mrs. Swadeuer has gone to Chicago to be with her son who has developed pneumonia. Dr.
Swadeuer is ill, tho better now. Mother has been sending meals to him. he has been all alone." She
encloses a picture (a real photo post card) of John (her brother?), taken in the canteen the previous
summer. "Today I saw directions for sending Christmas packages to soldiers in France. Mother and I
had to laugh tho it is no laughing matter. I do hope your coupon arrives in plenty of time. And the
package may be small, but you will know it does not need to hold the love I send, for that cannot be
confined -- it is great and growing greater, and knows no bounds." -- Letter 4 (12 October 1918):
Hildreth Heiney begins her letter no. "XIII" on letterhead stationery from the Wymore Hotel in
Marshall, Indiana, which she visits with Hannah [his sister?] and Ruth to see friends, have the hotel's
famous chicken dinner, and reminisce about their childhoods. Upon returning home and reading a
letter from him, she muses, "I don't like the looks off the peace offers and the sound of the notes that
are passing now between the Germans and the President. In fact I feel scared about it. And the
Liberty Loan is going fast enough. We will all have to push mighty hard to put it over. Then the
Influenza is going to put us behind, I fear. We will have no school this week, yet."

Letter 5 (14 October 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes to her son from Indianapolis: "You can scarcely
realize what a comfort your three letters on Board transport have meant to me. There are so many
other things we would like to know ... Where are you now, how comfortable are you & just what are
your duties will be in France. Will you go over the top in the firing line? I have understood that you
were and office man & would probably be left in the rear." She describes the comfort she takes in her
children, and that Kleber and Hildreth are a couple. In local news, "Influenza has passed the 'crest'
here Dr. says -- really has been very little has such strict quarantine was begun at first of it." -- Letter 6
(15 October 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XIV" reports: "The theaters, churches, schools, all
public gatherings have been forbidden until after the twentieth. The schools closed a week ago last
Monday. ... The stores are opening at different hours and closing either earlier or later than usual to
avoid congestion in the streetcars. ... There has been a decrease [sic] in the number of cases reported
and also in the number of deaths. ... Most of the deaths have been due to pneumonia following influenza."

Letter 7 (16 October 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes her letter "no. 17" to her son from Indianapolis. After wondering about his accommodations and comfort while shipping overseas, she considers: "Our big men reps. & Dems. were very much worried about Wilson answer to peace offer & armistice, but are pleased with his last answer to Germany I think he would hardly have done anything else with universal feeling here & abroad that Germany must not be allowed to recuperate during an armistice. No one can believe any thing they say & I have come to believe the German people are just like their lords & rulers -- they have been taught brutality for so many years." She reports about his brother, "A letter from Joel this morning he is well ' & has no complaint to make about food or anything else & am well pleased with my first ten days in camp.' They are in barracks, now vacant by removal of one of divisions. Quarantine is to be lifted this week for influenza which is almost entirely overcome." --

Letter 8 (20 October 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes her letter "19" to her son from Indianapolis. She heard that "your Division left England, Sep. 25-6 told of your landing in France 'hungry & dirty' and that you were to leave the 27." She reports about Liberty Bonds: "Indianapolis has raised her quota of $23 000000 & $600 000 more & Indiana as a state is over subscribed Indianapolis loan was accomplished with out one cent of underwriting by banks or financial institutions ... 113 000 individuals have taken the bonds. ... Our schools will not open this week. [The] paper says this morning that influenza cases were much less yesterday. Our family are all very well & are all using precautions so we are not fearing influenza. Witt [Kleber's brother] came home yesterday he is very well he says feels fine."

Letter 9 (20 October 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes her letter "20" to her son from Indianapolis: "We are all very well no signs at all of Flu." - Letter 10 (23 October 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes her letter "21" to her son from Indianapolis: "You see this letter is fully addressed. I hope you will receive it." She is concerned that he is not receiving mail; some letters have been returned [as this one will be, too]. "We are all very well in all the families. Flu is not nearly so bad here as in many other places though schools are still closed & probably will be for week or two longer -- I think one reason, we are short of Drs. & nurses in case we had a real epidemic. Indiana in this as all else, is up in front in number of Drs in active service."

Letter 11 (26 October 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XVII" reports: "I suppose you are now progressing in the art of washing clothes, or have you found a peasant woman who is glad to do it for you? Now that you know something about the problem of laundry work, I can talk to you quite freely about it and tell you our problem here at home has been simplified. We have bought an electric washer, 'The Eden'. I don't quite see the connection yet between the name and the work, but at least if one doesn't feel he is in Eden doing the washing, he finds that the work is very little and not hard work at all." School has been canceled for another week, leaving her out of teaching for a full month, but she does not mind: "Of course we will make up time, we will pay for it, but 'the dance was fine!'" After reporting about relatives in military service, she details local illnesses and deaths, concluding, "seems to be a slow process in all cases of influenza." -- Letter 12 (3 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXI" muses: "My good friend Simonds says the war is over, the fighting, but that Germany will try to win it around the green table. We are not going to allow that. We realize our danger, and will surmount it. Now various writers are beginning to tell us here at home that we must
prepare for a long siege in getting our army of over two million home again. Again I refuse to be pessimistic [sic]. It seems to me to be good common sense to bring the soldiers home to educate them rather than do it over there and have to ship food and supplies to them. ... Perhaps tho, I wont have any voice in the matter of settling that part of the question." Later: "The influenza epidemic is much improved both in severity and number of cases. School opens tomorrow. Arise at six o'clock thereafter -- O, won't it be hard for a few days?"

Letter 13 (5 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXII" presumes that Kleber now is in Officers Training School. Aside from family news, she reports: "The four weeks of vacation as a result of the epidemic of influenza almost cured me of any desire to teach school. Tho there was no place to go -- no theaters open or churches -- we did have a good time. We went back to school yesterday." -- Letter 14 (10 and 11 November 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes to her son from Indianapolis, at 4:45 on the 11th: "Prais [sic] the Lord! ... At 2:45 this morning whistles began to blow. ... No one in this neighborhood has greater cause for thanksgiving than I." After recounting the family's relief and celebration, she closes, "We are all very well none of us have any influenza. We all send very much love -- we all talk very much & often about you."

Letter 15 (11 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXV" celebrates, "Well, it is over -- O, such a day. We have been celebrating from early morning, in fact since three o'clock, and at ten tonight it is just beginning to subside. ... We are wondering now if you will go on with your training in the candidate's school. We know what a splendid looking soldier you are and we can imagine what a stunning looking 'Ocifer' you would make ... If only you could have seen this good old town tonight. I can't describe it it was wonderful. A band stationed on the balcony in front of English's played, the chimes in Christ Church played, other bands passed in parade and played and the people sang. There was a sea of flags and red fire lighted the whole scene. Moving pictures of the A.E.F. were shown on a screen on the balcony of the Columbia Club, and for the grand finale, the Stars and Stripes were unfurled from the top of the Monument which was aflame with red fire and we all sang the 'The Star Spangled Banner.' Thrills -- there were plenty. Then we wandered up and down the streets. The crowd was orderly and good natured but noisy -- nothing to compare with it." -- Letter 16 (17 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXVI" expresses disappointment: "You see from the heading of this letter, that I have sent you twenty-five overseas letters and the last time you wrote, the sixteenth of October, you had not received any that were addressed to you over-seas." After describing plays that are coming to town, she observes: "The 'flu' seems to be on the increase again, so I'm not very eager to run chances by going into a crowded theater. However I can't resist something good coming along the line of legitimate theater."

Letter 17 (20 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXVII" reports: "The schools were closed again Monday on account of influenza. It seems to have grown steadily worse since our recent celebrations. Now every time one pokes his head out of doors he must wear a mask made of four to six thicknesses of surgeons' cloth -- over nose and mouth. The order is to be enforced today. Aunt Florence and Uncle Heiny were out last evening. They said the clerks in the stores and street car conductors all wore them yesterday. Can you imagine how funny it must have been? I know I prefer to stay at home. We are going for a walk -- no masks needed then." -- Letter 18 (21 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXVIII" reports more about the marriage and departure of her only sister, Ruth. Also, "The flu situation seems much better today. O, I would love to have had you see
Indianapolis today, Kleber. I grinned all the way down town and back behind my mask. Yes. I wore one, and so did everybody else. There were all kinds -- large and small -- thick and thin, some embroidered and one cat-stitched around the edge. They were adjusted at all angles, tied around the head or hung over ears. Those seen on the street seemed to be taking the place of bibs -- resting just under the chin. O, this is a great old world! And one should surely have a sense of humor.

Letter 19 (24 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXIX" describes being a "gad about" with Kleber's sister, Hannah. "Yesterday morning about eight-forty Hannah called to ask me to go with them (Miss Cooper, Mrs Metcalf and Hannah) out to the Fort to see the last review. We proved ourselves to be lightening change artists for at nine o'clock we were all assembled at your corner for a car. Kleber, I wish you could have seen us when we got our flu masks arranged. On the Fort car we did not have to wear them. We saw twelve thousand soldiers pass in review. About a third of them, I would estimate carried guns. A very superior and sophisticated officer who stood near us volunteered the information that those with guns were quite ready to sail for foreign shores when the armistice was signed. You know one always measures every body by the one one loves the most and he didn't measure up very well to my standard. However, he meant to be kind, no doubt." -- Letter 20 (26 November 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXX" describes staying with and helping her recently-married sister: "Poor Ruth; she has the flu, Kleber, and they sent for mother or me. ... Before I came down to the house Gwyneth took me to the doctor, and I had the first serum injection for 'flu.' Two hours after I got here and had everything settled, Florence, the nurse appeared. Mother had telephoned her and she said she would come. Ruth is not very ill -- she has a little temperature, and with the efficient care Florence gives her, we do not feel concerned. Isn't it dreadful tho, that two weeks after her marriage, she should have this attack?"

Letter 21 (1 December 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXXI" wonders whether any of her letters reach him, or he will be overcome with large bunches of them arriving together. She reports: "I returned from Elwood yesterday afternoon. Ruth was much improved. She expected to sit up a while today. ... We are so thankful that she escaped pneumonia. Influenza is severe enough without complications." Returning home, "School opens for the third time tomorrow. The influenza situation is better again and I fervently pray that it will remain so, or rather that the dread disease will die out entirely. ... I haven't worried about School, Kleber. We have taught just six weeks out of twelve, I believe." -- Letter 22 (8 December 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXXIII" begins: "Kleber, dearest, this evening I am alone with you. There is a bright wood fire burning and only the table lamp. An atmosphere of restfulness and quiet, and productive of romance and dreams. After describing going to a film and more, and wondering what he has been doing in France, she reports: "Jean was to come tomorrow evening to show mother some things about basketry. But I just talked with her sister, who says Jean is feeling a great deal like having the 'flu.' She is doing too much -- too many classes. She has a gym class, swimming, advertising, and two nights a week a class in 'therapy' preparing her to teach the returned soldiers who need hand work. ... there is rumor that the schools are going to close again tomorrow. But I haven't much faith in rumors any more."

Letter 23 (15 December 1918): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes an un-numbered letter to her son from Indianapolis; she relates news about his brother Joel's success and promotions to Corporal and then Sergeant at Camp Dix [New Jersey] in "Sanitary Squad, Medical Dept., Purification of Water General Sanitation. Says his work has been very enjoyable, practical post graduate after his theoretical college program at UCLA Library 10/2017
work." She recreates Joel's map of Camp Dix, "a Demobilization Camp for overseas soldiers", to help Kleber locate the Sanitary Squad if he goes there on his way back. She includes a long list of the contents of the Christmas package that she, the family, and friends had sent him. -- Letter 24 (18 December 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXXIV" is "Ten long days since I have written to you, it seems weeks." Because her letters have not reached him, she gives a recap of her life since September. After catching up to her sister Ruth's bout of illness, she explains, "I haven't felt any fear of influenza, but I have taken precautions. Father and Robert are both well now. I am taking a plunge into a tub of cold water every morning and it is so invigorating I don't ever expect to have any ailments. The influenza situation shows improvement just now. But it comes in successive waves ..."

Letter 25 (25-26 December 1918): Hildreth Heiney's letter no. "XXXV" Begins: "Kleber dearest -- I am writing with John's new fountain pen on paper given to me by one of my beloved pupils. There is a fire on the hearth; the tinsel of the Christmas tree gleams in its light; all is quiet and peace. You seem so near to me; this is your hour." She describes her and her family decorations and festivities, gushes over the sapphire and pearl pin he sent her, and recounts the "Fezziwig ball" portion of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"; her brother, Robert, was relieved to learn that Tiny Tim did not die, as well. She concludes, "Kleber don't work too hard. You looked so dreadfully thin in the picture you sent just before you left for over seas. Don't worry about me. I never looked healthier. The 'flu' is not as prevalent as it was. Tell me about yourself. I do so hope you will begin to get some mail." -- Letter 26 (31 January - 2 February 1919): Hildreth Heiney's un-numbered letter expresses concern that her sister, Ruth, "has been ill almost ever since she was married. She had the 'flu' and doesn't get over it very quickly. ... And all this from the 'flu.' I shall never cease to be thankful that the rest of us escaped. It isn't any joke." Hildreth acknowledges that Kleber is in Le Mans, France, and exults, "You can't imagine how happy we were to know that you had actually received two letters, and too, to know that when [we] write, our letters have a chance of reaching you." She relates a visit to a family friend: "Mrs Swadener was telling a story about her husband. Do you know him? He works for the Anti-Saloon League. He is a fine looking, pious, elderly man. He went to Tulsa, Oklahoma not long ago, to talk for the Anti-Saloon League. He was to arrive on Sunday morning in time to preach at one of the churches. His pictures were posted all over the town. When he arrived in Tulsa late because of having missed a train in St. Louis, he was accosted as he stepped off the train, and arrested as a bootlegger. They would not release him until they had searched him. The enemies of his cause surely intended to make him as uncomfortable as possible." This is the first letter -- addressed to Liaison Headquarters, American Embarkation Center, Sub Depot #3, A.P.O. 762 -- whose envelope shows no evidence of having been forwarded or returned as undeliverable.

Letter 27 (31 January 1919): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes an un-numbered letter to her son from Indianapolis, describing how she and his sister Hannah like Hildreth very much; "I expect we are nearer to each other (Hildreth & us) than if we had not shared this common love & anxiety about you." She reports results of elections, including "U.S. has ratified amendment for national wide prohibition over big fight by [legion?] men." She recounts some information from pervious letters which had not been delivered to him, and adds details: "Just after you left U.S. order came out that all limited service men must go into service, as watchmen I munition plants, machinists, truck drivers, etc." Hagley's brother Joe received no exemption; "When he learned that he wrote to Surgeon General Washington asking for work in water purification or sanitation work in Medical Dept. He received an answer right away assigning him to Camp Dix Sanitary ... Medical Dept & left home Oct. 2,
in the midst of worst Flu epidemic at Camp Dix. Of course we were very anxious about him, so many men died there but he has been very well all the time." -- Letter 28 (9 February 1919): Hildreth Heiney's un-numbered letter talks about guests, cooking, the weather, concerts, reading, and President Wilson's work and administration. She concludes: "I wonder if you are at work? Are there any cases of 'Flu' in Le Mans? You must take your own advice and care for yourself, Kleber."

Letter 29 (9 February 1919): Kleber's brother, Sergeant Joel W. Hadley, writes on camp letterhead from Camp Sanitary Squad, Camp Dix, New Jersey, an assignment for which he has "no cause for complaint. Several hundred overseas men arrive at Camp Dix for further medical treatment or discharge. From 800 to 1000 are being discharged weekly. As you probably know, a soldiers [sic] home must be within 350 miles from the camp from which he is discharged. This probably means that I will be sent to Camp Sherman or Taylor before I leave the army. Wouldn't it be ine if we were to get out about the same time? If when you return to the States you should land in Philadelphia you will likely be brought to Dix to be de-loused before being sent west." -- Letter 30 (16 February 1919): Hildreth Heiney's un-numbered letter reports: "Quiet reigns once more in the Heiney household" following the departure of several visitors. Her sister, "Ruth is going to stay with us a week yet, and if she continues to improve and they can secure a housekeeper, she will go home. All she needs is rest, and that she must have. O, I feel so sorry for her. She has not been well a day since before she and Geoff were married. We have learned about the Flu, all we want to know."

Letter 31 (24 February 1919): Hildreth Heiney's un-numbered letter is written eight months to the day when Kleber left for Camp Sherman. "We have met each other once since then, about seven months ago. Doesn't that sound startling? I can scarcely believe that the weeks have mounted so rapidly into months. I'm so glad that you have not suffered from influenza. It has been a real scourge here. Rut is the only member of our family to have it. She is getting well now; she has no temperature." -- Letter 32 (5 April 1919): Mrs. E.W. Hadley writes from Indianapolis to her son in Hoboken Casual Company 353, Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, excited that he will be home soon. She reports about family members, including: "Our families have been very fortunate indeed to have all escaped fatal illness from influenza. There have been many deaths from it. Lucy [Kleber's sister] was at death's door but is making a fine recovery." She concludes, "I will see you so soon I will write no more. We all send lots of love."
I spill only 70000 beans a week into my interior : how's that?, [ca. 1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6475985

1 postcard : col. ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Caption title from recto of color-printed postcard depicting a smiling army soldier carrying a heaping plate of beans in his right hand and an oversize cup of coffee in his left hand as he strides towards the viewer. Verso is stamped "Post card" with divided back.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Verso has autograph letter signed, written in pencil, from Ross, Evacuation Ambulance Company 36, M.O.T.C. [Medical Officers' Training Camp] to Ralph Parsons, Formoso, Kansas; two-cent postage stamp is cancelled at Ft. Riley Branch, Junction City, Kansas, Oct. 22, [1918]. Ross reports he is "still in Riley. and think I will be until the flu is over they are getting it pretty well checked but there are a good many cases yet. one of the boys in our co. died. he was a married guy too."
Accommodations for relatives of "Flu" patients, Y.M.C.A. Hostess House, Camp Zachary Taylor Ky, [ca. 1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7725291

1 postcard : ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Caption title from recto of black-and-white photomechanical postcard depicting two-story building surrounded by tents; soldiers are seen along road in front of building. Verso is printed "Post card" with divider between message and address spaces. Title hand-printed in white on the original photograph.
Real photo postcard of soldiers at chapel service at Camp Dodge, Iowa, [1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7738099

1 postcard : ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Title constructed by cataloger. Statement of responsibility ("Walter L. Smith, Photographer, Marshalltown, Ia.") from verso, which is printed "Post card" with divider between message and address spaces; no stamp box.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Hand-drawn arrow on recto points to steps in front of altar. Verso annotated and inscribed from Camp Dodge, Iowa, with no recipient. "Nov. 1918. During the flu epidemic. Where the arrow is, is where I am sleeping. I never thought I would sleep on a pulpit. Did you? From C.B. Wells. No place else left to sleep. so many boys there at that time."
Soldiers Monument, Saugus Mass., [1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7737077

1 postcard : col. ill. ; 14 x 9 cm

Color-tinted photomechanical postcard depicting monument on town square. Verso printed "Post card" with divided back marked for correspondence and address spaces.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Verso has autograph letter signed from Ellen in Saugus, Mass. to her sister, Mrs. R. Newcome in East Holliston, Mass., 8 October 1918; postage stamps are cancelled at Saugus. Ellen writes, presumably about influenza: "Dear Sister. card received. What sad news. but it is so all over every where -- hope you are better try and keep up. so glad to hear in your letter that you had such good luck with your garden. the Lord knows what is best. I am well. and the house is full."
Regimental Headquarters & Hospital of 301st Engineers, Camp Devens, Mass.

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7769403

1 postcard : col. ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Color-printed postcard depicting two-story building and automobiles. Verso printed with Y.M.C.A. logo and "Post card" in red, with divided back marked for correspondence and address spaces.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Verso has autograph letter signed from "your soldier boy", Raymond, at Camp Devens to his grandmother, Mrs. William Clark, Troy, N.Y.; postage stamp is cancelled at Devens Branch, Fitchburg, Mass., 1 May 1918. Raymond writes: "The heartiest greetings and wishes on your 80'th birthday. I hope I may be home soon to celebrate."
Two real photo postcards of Addison Gilbert Hospital in Gloucester, Massachusetts, before and during influenza epidemic, [1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7497401

2 postcards : ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Two real photo postcards (RPPC) show the rear of the Addison Gilbert Hospital in Gloucester, Massachusetts, with its outbuildings and field. Postcard no. 1, marked "No. 75" by hand, shows an empty field; this image presumably was made first, because the outside staircase or fire escape on the main building reaches only two of three floors; the structure in the other postcard is much more extensive. Postcard no. 2 shows dozens of white tents in the field, pitched in even rows with boardwalks along one opening of each tent. White-clad nurses are seen standing or walking; some patients may be visible. The second postcard is dated to approximately September 1918, when the influenza epidemic swept through Gloucester.

Real photo postcards with divided backs; "place postage stamp here" and logo in place of stampboxes.
Y W C A, Springfield, Ohio, [1919]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8083672

2 sheets (4 p.) ; 26 cm

Color-printed photomechanical postcard depicting four-story building with Y.W.C.A. sign at end of walkway near street. Verso printed "Commercialchrome" and "Post card" in brown, with divided back.

CLA Library Special Collections copy: Verso has autograph letter signed from Opha to Ed Gelbach, Beason, Illinois; postage stamp is cancelled in Springfield, Ohio, 22 January 1919. Opha writes: "How are you by this time 160 pounder? Hope you and Ed have still escaped flu. Mother had a touch of it last week, but it was light and she is all right now. ... I am getting well fast & will go to work soon. Don't know where."
Camp Library, American Library Association, Camp Funston, Texas [i.e., Kansas], [1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8225944

1 postcard : ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

Caption title from recto of colotyped postcard depicting the camp library building at Camp Funston in Kansas, misidentified as Texas, ca. 1918; title was handwritten in white on the original photograph. Verso is stamped "Post card" with divided back.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Verso has autograph letter signed, written in pencil, from Kevin to Helen R. Goss, Chanute, Kansas; two-cent postage stamp is cancelled at Kansas City in 1918. Kevin writes: "I will watch my chance and come as soon as possible. I am 'officially' over the 'Flu' having been examined for the last time this morning. Is warmer here."
Real photo postcard of flour mill, Lamar, Colorado, [1918]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8225948

1 postcard : ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

"637 - Flour Mill - Lamar, Colo." handwritten in white on recto. Verso is printed "Post card" with "KRUXO" divider between message and address spaces; no stamp box.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Annotation in ink on recto. Autograph letter signed in ink on verso from [Minta?] to Mrs. Harold Hutchinson, Orlega, Florida; two-cent stamp cancelled at Pensacola, Florida, 1918 November 22. She writes: "How are you all? Hope you escaped 'Flu'. All offices finally recovered from effects and 'no [account?]' ... Are'n't [sic] you happy the war is over!"
Real photo postcard with bird's-eye view of Westphalia, Iowa, [1919]

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8225997

1 postcard : ill. ; 9 x 14 cm

"Birdseye view Westphalia, la. 4" handwritten in white on recto of real photo postcard (RPPC). Verso is printed "Post card" with "KRUXO" divider between message and address spaces; no stamp box.

UCLA Library Special Collections copy: Autograph letter signed in ink on verso from Marie Schmitz, Westphalia, Iowa to Delia Book, Osmond, Nebraska, 1919 5 January; two-cent stamp cancelled at Westphalia, Jan. 6. She writes to "Friend Delia": "Altho late please allow me in extending to you all, our sincere wish for a Happy and prosperous New Year. Had a snowstorm Saturday and today the ground is covered with a heavy blanket of snow. The flu is still at its heights here. I also had an attack of it. Sincerely, friend Marie Schmitz."
UCLA Biomed 509.171

[not cataloged and included/available yet]
Typed letter from Miss Swanson, Savingsville, to Mr. Soldier-man, 1919 January 17

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7741550

1 sheet ; 19 x 22 cm + with envelope

Miss Swanson types and type-signs a letter from "Savingsville" [a bank or savings and loan?] on 17 January 1919 to "Mr. Soldier-man": "How is army life? Mr. Fahlen asked me to address the envelope to this letter, so I couldn't help but 'butt in' with a few lines to let you know the State Bank is still existing in the same old way and in the same old place. We are having a Savings account contest here now, so things are just about humming around us here. All the bunch are here and say hello. Mr. Green had the flu but is allright [sic] again, also Engner [sic] Anderson. I suppose Mr. Fahlen has already written all the news so there is left for me and maybe I am repeating some of it. Well, we hope to see you back soon. With best wishes for a safe and speedy return, I am [type-signed]

Sincerely, Miss Swanson."

The seller (to UCLA Library Special Collections) explained, in November 2010, that this letter "was found founded inside the breast pocket of a WWI army uniform jacket. ... The soldier did return, we know from the estate we handled, and led a nice life, and his son, whose estate we recently cleared, did also. No idea if Miss Swanson was the son's mother, though."
Typed letter signed from Royal S. Copeland, Commissioner, Department of Health, City of New York to Major Charles Barton, Base Hospital, Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, 1918 November 18

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8096583

1 sheet ; 28 cm

Commissioner Royal S. Copeland, M.D., writes on letterhead of the Department of Health, City of New York, in response to an unknown query from Major Charles Barton, Base Hospital, Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky on 18 November 1918: "My dear Major: I wish to thank you for your note of November 9th. The epidemic kept me pretty busy for a while, but when we consider that during the height of the epidemic the death rate of Boston and Washington [D.C.] was twice as high, and of Baltimore and Philadelphia three times as high as that of New York, we do not feel that our efforts have been in vain."

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8134553

1 sheet ([2] pages) ; 18 cm + with envelope

"Jute" (J.M. Otney) writes as an agent in Lynchburg, Virginia on letterhead stationery of the Home Insurance Company, New York to Major John W. James, 2nd Brigade, 317th Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces on 26 January 1919. Includes envelope, canceled in Lynchburg, which full identifies the recipient. Jute describes the difficulty of getting good servants at home, so he and his family often "are taking our suppers at the Tea Kettle which helps us out a lot and now I can manage to get through with my work and have a little time off." He describes efforts to get former employees and friends out of the military and into work and bemoans the number of young soldiers who are marrying without any financial means of support. He is sad to hear that soldiers continue to die despite the war being over, but "When I got your cable I said I wouldn't worry about coming home as I was thankful that you were living, but I surely do wish that all of you boys would hurry up and come back." Before advising James on the status of bonds he is depositing on his behalf, Jute reports: "The flu epidemic is getting better and people are venturing out occasionally to the Theatre. There have been several real goods [sic] shows here lately, but I haven't started for I wanted to see them all when I do go. David Warfield, Going Up, Oh! Boy, and My Soldier Girl were here last week and next Tuesday, Miss Springtime, will be here. The last show I went to was at Camp Lee, with you so you can see I am not sporting very much of late. Mr. Massie is up and walking around but isn't real well by any-means as he sometimes now has those sinking spells from the after effects of flu. He worked 5 hours at the drug store yesterday and is in bed to day."

The two letters are handwritten on unlined, plain, tan paper with accompanying postal covers. The postcard is franked and canceled.
Autograph letter signed from Roy at Castle Heights, a military academy in Lebanon, Tennessee to his friend, Elma Easley, Belfast, Tennessee, 1918 March 26

[6] p. ; 17 cm + with envelope

Roy, presumably student at the Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tennessee, writes to his friend, Miss Elma Easley in Belfast, Tennessee, in a letter postmarked 26 March 1918, with an envelope with the printed banner "Castle Heights": "I'm still living in hopes of this quarantine being raised. We have been quarantined now soon will be three weeks. You know your self how tiresome it is to be kept in our place for so long -- there hasn't [been] any new cases broken out in the past week and a half. There isn't likely to be any more the Doctors say. ... We were all vaccinated I had a real sore arm for about a week it is most well now, though some of the boys arms are inflamed and giving them a great deal of trouble. I'm proud of my vaccination now since it's over for the Doctors say that it is good for seven years." He looks forward to the end of school in two months. "We are drilling hard every day now in order that we may be able to pass the government inspection which will be the middle of next month. It would be terrible if we should fail to pass it."
Pocket diary of Clarence Garrette of Torrington, Connecticut, 1917-1918

[URL]

1 v.; 16 cm

The writer uses a printed copy of "The standard diary: 1918" (The Standard Diary Co.), with an olive drab cloth cover with closing flap, making handwritten entries in pencil for the end of 1917 and throughout 1918. The diary presumably is completed by Clarence Garrette, an inference based on a handwritten slip in the back pocket, identifying Garrette's service at Barrack #2, Police Headquarters, Carneys Point, New Jersey. Garrette, from Torrington, Connecticut, worked at the American Brass Company and was in the World War I Interior Guard (its General Orders for duty are printed on a cardboard slip, laid in the lower pocket). He talks about drills ("drills for hours"), marches, and infantry practices he attends, as well as large amounts of overtime he put in at the American Brass Company. He reports what he is reading ("Finished Zane Grey's Rainbow Trail today, a great story. Have read Wildfire too. Grey is a very interesting author": February 24, 1918) and mentions the high cost of everyday staples (eggs, flour, tobacco, soap) and their rationing. He has a lame foot, and falls sick for weeks ("Grip I think": January 30, 1918), but recovers. The late Spring and most of the Summer are blank; the writer appears to have moved during that time; he resumes on August 9 with reports of Allied victories in Europe and parades at home and conclude in mid-October. He is married to Jean but does not mention her much; no children are discussed. The diary's pocket includes a handwritten recipe for Hop Beer on a small paper slip.

Each day includes an early morning weather report, sometimes followed by a second report for evening. He does not just log and forecast conditions, but editorializes on them: "On Sunday Dec 30 1917 at 6.30 a.m. ther. [thermometer] registered 31 degrees below zero the coldest day of the winter. The weather has continued cold & raw since the 21st of November." -- "Some ice still on the trees, looks pretty in the light of street lamps: (January 11, 1918) -- "Dirty weather coming, I'm afraid" (January 20) -- "Clear moonlight. A nice night if I were in Gods Country." (January 27) -- "The Strand Theater burned today. Alarm rang at 1.15 am. Pretty tough on firemen with mercury below zero. Teamsters report very deep snow in the woods 4 & 5 feet. This will long be known as a winter without a January thaw." (February 5) -- "Clear still stars like glittering points of ice, so cold they look" (February 20) -- "Tonight the earth is frozen like granite, Seems like spring would never come." (March 15) -- "A spring day. I have a cold in my head & feel mean." (March 19) -- "Clear & starlit. We are nearing the glory days, soon we can really live: Why must all the dear beauty of green trees and sweet flowers give place to the cold barrenness of winter? Last summer commensed in June & was gone by September, cold days came in October & continued with few warm ones till this week; 6 months is a pretty long winter." (April 4).
January 10, 1918: "Insane asylum fire in Middleton $150000 loss estimated." -- January 17: "Recd order today from the very brainy democratic administration in Washington. Shut down everything for 5 days. It takes 200 tons of coal to run the plant 24 hours everybody working; it takes 150 tons shut down. That means the American Brass Co. will burn 750 tons of coal just to keep their pipes from freezing. The company will not make a cent and can not catch up on orders, all from the many. In Europe the Cabinet would be requested to resign. Coal at $4.75 per ton. 750 tons, 5 days = $4,262.50 loss to the company." -- "The school teachers administration in Washington has found that the brass mill can not make tubing while they are shut down. Therefore orders recd. Sat. p.m. to start up this a.m." -- "Wish I had a job among civilized people: I have no chance to go to church or get rested. It is no way to live." (January 26) -- "Wheat flour very scarce, not any to be found in Torrington. The Government are preparing to mix grain in order to make war flour: for every 5 lbs of flour one must buy 1 lb of rice or oatmeal or corn meal in order to [save?] wheat these are Government orders." (February 2) -- "Put in an hour trying to Color a photo, had poor luc..." (March 24) -- "Third Liberty Loan opens today. Home Guard band from Waterbury, Litchfield Light Horse, Litchfield Rifles, and Winsted Infantry helped us out. Companys K, L, & M. Transport & Hospital Battalions & Red Cross. A small parade but a very snappy one." (April 6).

In late January, the writer complains about a flu-like illness -- "the grip [sic], I think" -- which nearly incapacitates him for close to two weeks. Beginning in September 1918, he begins to write about the Spanish influenza, talking about people who have it and others who have died, and effects on the community: "Spanish Influenza is about town" (September 24) -- "Sat up to day for first time since Tuesday." (Saturday, September 28) -- "All places of amusement are closed on account of Spanish Influenza. Carl Jones of Collinsville was buried to day died of Spanish influenza." (October 11) -- "A big parade was planned but postponed until later. Pauline Barrentler of Winsted was buried to day." (Columbus Day, October 12) - In the final posting in the diary, he notes: "All churches are closed on account of influenza. Believe me its [sic] some quiet about town." (October 13).
Daily diary of Mrs. B.F. Slater, living near Cooperstown, New York, 1918

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7397902

1 v.; 16 cm

Mrs. B.F. Slater of Cooperstown, New York, uses a printed copy of "The excelsior diary: 1918", with an black cloth cover with closing flap, making handwritten entries in ink. The writer is identified on the "Remembrancer" page of the diary, immediately before the calendar. Slater often records the day's weather (cloudy; rained; pleasant) and storms and, sometimes, temperature (February 5 was "34 below [zero]"); attendance at church; momentous events (having a telephone installed; a Liberty Bond drive; the draft registration of 18 to 45 year-olds on September 12, an outbreak of "Liberty measles" in March; and Germany surrendering on November 11 ("Pleasant. Went to Worcester with Glennis. Broke my glasses tonight. Germany surrendered this morning. Great celebration & holiday all over U.S.")), and the social and intellectual life of the community (attendance at the Auxiliary, temperance meetings, a tractor demonstration, and visiting or being visited). Many of Mrs. Slater's daily, regular, or seasonal chores ("worked") were recorded in brief or described: strawberrying, canning, milking, churning, butchering, pickling, baking, threshing, sewing, mending, quilting, ironing, cleaning, and washing; some work was done by "the men", including her husband Benjamin: clearing roads of snow, logging, haying, sawing wood, digging potatoes, haying, and so forth.

Many deaths are noted, often without description of the cause. Two-thirds of the reported deaths are noted specifically as acute Bright's disease, pneumonia, being killed in action in France (2 instances), or succumbing to influenza (10 instances). Mrs. Slater first identified influenza deaths in October: "Doctor Burdick died. Many people are dieing with the Spanish influenza. Washed." (October 21) -- "Did Sat. work. Uncle George went home. Mrs. Forrest Coleman & Mrs. Eugene Potter died today." (October 26) -- "Mother & Dad were here to dinner. Spent the evening at Ottaways. James Van Duesen died this morning." (October 27) -- "Rained. Spent the day home. Veree Clark died of influenza. E.F. King's wife funeral. Buzzed wood home." (December 24).

The printed volume, titled "Excelsior Diary 1918" with no imprint, contains monthly calendars for 1918 as well as information about the annual church calendar, eclipses, reading a barometer, weather signals, interest tables, wage table, principal cities [1910 populations], states and territories, foreign coins, Easter Sundays from 1897-2000, U.S. standard time, presidents, information for business men, weights and measures, income on stocks, telling time of tides, help in case of accidents, and remembrancer [personal information]. The diary section consists of three days per page, with day of the week, date, and "Wea. Ther.", printed for each day. At the end are ledgers for addresses and telephone numbers, insurance expiration, memoranda, notes and bills receivable and payable,
and monthly and summary cash accounts, concluding with a printed calendar for 1919. The volume is bound in limp charcoal, stamped "Excelsior Diary", with a cloth tongue-and loop closure.

See related diary for 1919, BIOMED Ms. Coll. no. 509.099
Pocket diary of a United States Navy electrician and radioman, 1915-1921

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=6348625

1 v.; 16 cm

An unidentified U.S. Navy sailor fills a blank three-year, disbound six-ring calendar, three entries per page, with a record of his activities aboard ship and on shore during and after service in the first World War. He includes lists of radio and motorcycle supplies dated 1915 and 1917, respectively, before commencing a daily diary from the day he reports to the recruiting station as a radioman-electrician on 9 July 1917. He details schooling at the Brooklyn shipyard and working aboard ships, beginning with the U.S.S. Kaiser Wilhelm as it hauls cargo for troops. While circumnavigating the globe aboard the S.S. Juneau -- he was in Cristóbal, Panama heading east at the time of the "Armstice" [i.e., Armistice] -- he details the tedium of daily life interrupted by taking deck watches, practicing Morse code and relaying messages in the radio shack, playing ace duce and chess, and contending with storms and bad food.

Highlights of furloughs include having his bag and hammock stolen from the Navy Y.M.C.A. in Brooklyn in November and December 1918; visiting his family in Pittsburgh for Christmas, 1918; and walking the Allied and German trenches in Rheims (14 March 1919) while on leave in Paris. The sailor applies for discharge on 31 January 1919, writing that day: "Anyone in the Navy when there is no war is out of luck in all ways and is a d.f."; the following week he receives orders to leave in one hour for France aboard the U.S.S.B. West Alseeck bound for La Pallice ("Hard to do nothing", at anchor off La Pallice, 28 February 1919). From La Pallice, on April 6 he leaves for Staten Island, New York via a coal transport run from Cardiff, Wales. He spends weeks trying to get a medical discharge because of incurable catarrhal deafness and succeeds with an Ordinary Medical Discharge on 18 June 1919. His first day in "civies" [civilian clothes], June 21, is followed by buying an Indian motorcycle for $20.00, working at Duff Manufacturing Company doing detail work and mechanical drafting, and starting college (20 September 1919); the diary becomes more sporadic and ceases in 1921.

The only references to what may be Spanish influenza come while in New York City on 23 December 1918 ("Spent am till about 10:30 in bed. Cleaned up and went uptown. Went to Keats vaudeville Good show. Returned to Y.M. Left abt 6:30 to see D. Rode around in car. Had touch of grip.") and December 24 ("Had 2 am to 8 am watch. Turned in about 8.30 Up at 3.30 pm Feeling rotten."). There is no mention of encountering cases or news of influenza while at sea or in France.
"Over seas" : pocket diary of Sergeant John A. Scott, Detachment Medical Department, 301st Ammunition Train, 76th Infantry Division, 1918 July 12 to 1919 May 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=7475884

2 sheets ([2] leaves) ; 23 cm

From July 1918 through May 1919, Sergeant John A. Scott of Quincy, Massachusetts uses a pocket diary to document his deployment with Detachment Medical Department, 301st Ammunition Train, 76th Infantry Division in the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Daily entries capture everyday activities in a hospital train and a field hospital, from repetitive alternations of work and hiking to encounters with influenza and gas victims, and the effects of war in England and France. Scott apparently serves as quartermaster, doing payroll for staff and patients and making frequent day trips to get supplies and vehicles from Bordeaux, Nancy, Sorcy, and Joul through nearly daily rain. He grumbles about the English, the French, his officers, and miserable conditions.

Cover title; subtitle constructed by cataloger. Printed diary for daily entries, "'Over seas' journal", published by Longfellow, Ltd. of Boston. Includes "Time in largest cities in the world when it is noon, the same day, at Washington, D.C.", lyrics to "The star-spangled banner", "Approximate value of foreign coins in United States money", and "Metric equivalents".

On 12 July 1918, Scott leaves Camp Devens, Massachusetts on a troop train via Concord, New Hampshire to Montreal, to ship out overseas on the ship Ajana, "sailing under the English flag" with 900 on board. The convoy of 24 troop ships picks up 14 American destroyers for the Atlantic crossing. Scott is "in charge of the hospital on the boat. Water is all we see. Drill is about all we do. Food is rank" (July 21). On July 24th, "Passed an iceberg one could feel the cold from it. They say it was about where the Titanic was sunk." After arriving in Liverpool, England on July 31, "We are here [Winchester, England] for a Rest. A hell of a place for that. Not even water for a bath. The English take advantage of our ignorance & charge high prices for food & give short change. No one seems to like them" (August 1). Sailing from Southampton to embark for France (Augist 3): "About 11 a.m. a U.S. destroyer came in with about 200 nurses that had been torpetoed [sic] by a sub on board a hospital ship. 150 lost. Set sail at 7 p.m. for Cherbourg -- France -- arrived there at midnight ... aboard the 'Dutchess of Argyle'." The next day: "Marched to Tourlaville [near Cherbourg] ... an English rest camp same as all of them 'rotten'. Went to church tonight & YMCA. 24 of us had 10 minutes to take a bath, no wonder the English are dirty, rotten & full of bugs." After being in charge of a hospital car on their train Scott notes (August 7): "Arrived at Cadaujac, 8 mi south of Bordouex [sic]. We are in billets in Beaudecourt, a small village on the road to Bourdouex [sic]. Our billet is an old meat shop. Everything is removed except the flies & there are many of those." On August 8: "Have charge of the sanitary work of the 20 odd billets. All the water is unfit to drink. There are about 50 German prisoners
working in the vineyards. They look happy & contented." For the next month, before leaving for Camp De Souge, most entries center on "work & hike".

Scott's encounter with influenza came in early Fall 1918: September 22: "301st Am. Inf. placed in quarantine at 1 P.M. Rain." -- September 29: "In quarantine & had to stay around the barracks all day." -- October 1: "Went thru gas chamber." -- October 2: "Out of quarantine at 12 noon. Went for a 3 mi hike in gas masks at night." -- October 6: "Placed in quarantine." -- October 7


A stay in La Groutte draws new duties. August 26: "Div. Sanitary inspector called. Pleased with my work." -- October 27: "Worked all day in sanitation. This is a rotten town of 98 souls." -- November 6: "Left in the morning, rode all day and night for two days." -- November 9: "Left Sorey for Commericy at 7 a.m. -- here at 10 a.m. Busy all day. We can hear steady firing & the wounded & gassed are just pouring in. 33rd Div. This town under bomb fire." -- November 10: "Rain. Busy all day getting settled. A dirty filthy place as left by the French. Heavy firing all day & night." -- November 11: "Fair. Armistice signed at 11 am. Busy in hospital all night." -- November 13: "Rain. Busy all day with freight." -- November 16: "Fair. Eight of us left at 9:50 pm for Paris & St. Mazarie to drive back 4 Ford ambulances. Slept in the mail car. Some cold." -- November 17: "Fair. Arrived in Paris at 7.30 am & did the town. Had a bath at Y.M.C.A. & walked all day seeing the town with Hadlock." They return through Dijon, Neuchateau, to Commericy. -- November 28: "Thanksgiving Day. Worked hard in the a.m. & at 1 p.m. after turkey Maj. C & 30 of us in the Packard did the battle front. Returned at 5 p.m. wet, but after an interesting day, tried to forget the day, but O my!" -- December 11: "First mail today in 7 weeks. 3 letters. Some joy." -- December 12: "Rain. Worked all day. Drove to St. Michel in the ambulance. Had a puncture [puncture] arrived back at 11.45 p.m. Meet some of the Camp Devens crowd." -- December 24: "Rain. Some day. Busy all day. In the evening we had fire works. At 8:30 p.m. we all assembled at the mess hall for feed & show. Sometime until 11 p.m. Sat up until 1 a.m." -- December 25: "Rain ... Wrote in the evening. I put April 1919 on the letter #36 tonight. I wonder if Mouse [his wife or girlfriend?] will notice it & will she understand. I hope it comes true, whatever it may mean."

The new year sees a decline in Sergeant Scott's morale. 19 January 1919: "I feel rotten, a Hell of a New's Year in this dam [sic] country. Bladder & kidneys all shot. Must keep up courage for some one else." -- January 5: "Something wrong somewhere -- too many sick -- no one cares & they do not know what it is." -- January 7: "Rain. Work -- half sick but will not give in." -- January 11: "Rain. Worked in the a.m. Went for a long walk in the p.m. How in hell long will we be kept in this rotten country. I feel bum & half sick. O to be home." He is busy doing administrative work -- paying doctors, nurses, and patients, and overseeing supply orders -- while being disgusted by drunkenness in truck drivers and joyriding by the commander. January 17: "Col. Powell left. The beginning of the end. Where will we land? -- January 22: "Dropped in to see the Major in the evening. Knows nothing. Wish
that he would lay off the booze. He looks bad. Wants to get home, so do we, but I do not booze." -- February 7: "Work & more work." -- February 21: "Dead tired at night." -- March 18: "Went to Joul in the p.m. with the Capt. Found our truck drivers from Nancy somewhat drunk. Had to drive one truck back myself. Great life." -- March 29: "Busy all day. Rumors of moving? Dance for the men, nurses allowed to attend. I did not go. Thank you". In his final entry (May 15), Scott writes: "Wonderful weather. One H. of a day, every thing at odds & ends." According to U.S. Army Transport Service passenger list records, Scott departed as Sergeant First Class from Base Hospital no. 91, Brest, France on USS Pocahontas on 22 July 1919, arriving Hoboken, New Jersey on August 1, to then report to Camp Merritt (N.J.).

Sergeant Scott was the seller's stepfather.
Autograph letters signed to Private Elmer C. Opsahl, Headquarters Company, 83rd Field Artillery, at Camp Knocks [i.e., Knox], Kentucky from his mother and his brother Bernie in Roslyn, South Dakota, 1919 January 29

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vweby/holdingsInfo?bibId=8234843

5, 1 leaves [i.e., [12] p.] ; 21 cm + with envelope

n a [10] page letter on lined stationery, Private "Almer" (i.e., Elmer) Opsahl's mother writes him at Camp Knox, Kentucky -- although she thinks he is in France -- from Roslyn, South Dakota. She reports: "I am sure you have seen and gone through more then you never thought you would get into once but you sure were lucky that [you] did not get to go in [the] front, or get the flue [i.e., flu or influenza], as lots of them. It sure is awful about some of the boys. They think Rudolf B... is still alive, but is crazy. All the letters they have written him has come back, and they are marked he is sick, but don't stand what kind of sickness. But Andrew Bakke were home on a furlough he is wounded and is at Fort S..., Minn he sed [sic] Rudolf never got in the fight. he sed he was with him the last time he saw him. him and 8 others were sent out for spies, and they never saw him any more, and the others were all hurt some way or other. They think Rudolf got kind of a shock. You no [sic] it lays in the Family. They are all nervis [i.e., nervous]. Poor boy, I feel sorry for him if it is so hope not. he was better off if he was dead in place of it".

She explains the boys -- of whom Elmer's brother Bernie apparently is one -- arrived home from school, then reports more news from the town, including several cases of the flu. Before signing off she explains: "I have been working for the Red Cross this week, getting new members. I got quite a few already. Last week we served 30 [shemmys?] for red cross in this town spose to be but there were just a few of us that worked. Lots of them don't care what they do or not. but I don't think it's more than our duty to help them along as long as they do so much for our boys in war. Everybody brags of the Red Cross, so there must be something in it.

Bernie Opsahl writes a brief letter describing getting skies, trapping mice, and seeing local young men return home, looking good in their uniforms.

The two letters are handwritten on lined, plain paper; the accompanying postal cover has an illegible cancellation.
UCLA Biomed 509.181

[not cataloged and included/available yet]
Two autograph letters signed from Jesse E. Mooney, Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas and Company C, 15th Supply Train at Fort Bliss, Texas to his aunt, Mrs. Chas [Charles] Mooney in Mantua, Portage County, Ohio, 1917 September 3 and 1918 October 15

http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=8234844

2 items ([3]; [2] p.) ; 20-23 cm + envelope

Jesse E. Mooney first writes from Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas on 3 September 1917 to his aunt, Mrs. Charles Mooney, in Mantua, Ohio, as he arrives at an aviation training field: "I feel just as much at home here now as I did before I left. the boys here was all glad to me and glad also to know that I married the girl they never tried to kid me in any shape or form about it well let me know the news out there if there is any I am stationed out at a aviation field where there is several hundred machines so see a lot of flying."

In his second surviving letter, Mooney writes in letterhead of "Company 'C', 15th Supply train, 15th Trains Camp, Fort Bliss, Texas" on 15 October 1918. He reports: "I am well and hope you folks are the same. Are you folks having any of the spanish flue [i.e., flu or influenza] up there we sure are having our share of it. There is about twenty military funerals a day down here. And the civilians are having their share of it. ... About ten of our fellows have had the spanish fluenza [sic] but all have got well. I don't care to even get it. We are quarantined in for about 30 days so I guess I will have to stay in camp and be good." This letter includes an envelope with the camp's imprint and insignia, with postage cancelled from Fort Bliss on October 17. An additional slip of paper, laid-in, identifies Mooney as attached to the "15th Cavalry Division Supply Train".
Corporal Alton W. (William) Miller of Kingston, New York, was drafted (17 July 1918) from his job as a driver for Miller's Taxi Service (1917-1918) to train first in basic training in the 30th company, 8th Training Battalion, 153rd Depot Brigade, at Camp Dix (New Jersey), then as a candidate in officers training in the 15th Training Battery, F.A.C.O.T.S. (Field Artillery Central Officers Training School) at Camp Zachary Taylor (Louisville, Kentucky). This scrapbook album, with archival mounts and typescript transcriptions of handwritten letters prepared by an unidentified former owner, documents Miller's short military career and his demise from influenza or pneumonia shortly before the end of World War I without having left U.S. soil. The final entry inside the album cover, in the organizer's hand, reports that Alton's sister "Ada [i.e., Adah] Miller died June 15, 1989, age 97" ... more than 70 years after her younger brother. The album begins with photographs of Alton Miller and his sister and friends; his driving and chauffeur's licenses, and his draft and report for duty notices. "There are 10 long and detailed letters from Camps Dix and Taylor describing camp life, training, recreation, daily routine, and so forth. The five letters from Ft. Dix, mostly written to Alton's sister Adah, are chatty and good-natured descriptive letters about food, uniforms, needed supplies. He gets his corporal stripes and is accepted to Officer's Training School, where he is trained by West Point officers"--Antiquarian bookseller's description.

"After a month [at Camp Taylor], Miller's letter of Oct. 5th turns ominous: 'Things are getting worse and worse here. ... Don't get frightened but I have had the Influenza for four days but I have not let the authorities know about it yet. I think I can bring myself around if I can keep up long enough. ... The worst part of it is, it takes the life right out of you. For a couple of days I thought I would keel over every other step. Our hospitals are overcrowded here and I think in a week the whole camp will be quarantined. The treatment you get at the hospitals is absolutely rotten they say. It is so crowded you don't get enough to eat and it is very dirty and most of the nurses and attendants have got it too. So once you go in you have a hard time getting out.' Later that day he writes another letter: 'I am not going to that blooming hospital if I can help it. I feel a lot better today. I have only been in bad shape one day. ... I dropped three times but there was no one around to see me so it was all right. ... I'll tell you how you feel when you have it. 1. A severe pain in the head and temples throb. 2. Dizziness. 3. Pain in the back from kidneys to shoulders. 4. Sore throat and a cold in the lungs. 5. Sometimes sick in stomach. 6. Absolutely no ambition.'"--Antiquarian bookseller's description.
“On Oct 6th Miller writes his last letter home: 'It is a beautiful morning, I am sitting on my bunk which is outside the barracks ... ambulances are running in every direction out here. They haven't closed the camp yet but I think they will soon. ... What did you think of the news this morning? I would like the war to end but I would also like to get to France.' The next letters are from an attending officer and a chaplain advising Miller's parents of his illness. These are followed by a series of telegrams first advising them of the increasing gravity of their son's condition and finally of his death. Final telegrams deal with arrangements for sending Miller's body home. Also included are two letters of condolence, a handsome 12 x 16 [inch] color lithographed memorial pictorial frame [of] 'One of Our Boys of 1917,' with a mounted photo of Cpl. Miller at center, and finally Mrs. Miller's Gold Star Mother medal issued by the city of Kingston.”--Antiquarian bookseller's description.