



Antoinette Porter King and
Family Papers.

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Letter #101
JNPK#1

TO: Mrs E A Ekern, Flandreau, South Dak

FROM: James King, P43 Linwood Pl, St Paul, Minn

Jan 27 1918

Dear Sis Mary

Glad to hear that there is hopes of getting a sweater soon. Kit is knitting one for Clarence & he wanted to bet me he'd get his first but he knows that there is only about eight inches down the (back or front, I dont know which) left to knit on his & I dont know what shape mine is in. Clarence says he would even be glad to get something with a hole to put his head thru. But don't neglect your other work to work on that Mary. Quite a few of the boys have got sweaters that there (sic) sisters have knit for them. They wear them to drill.

You sure must have a good line of stuff out to the fair to get so much in prizes.

Sorry to hear that Celahs (sic) children have the whopping (sic) cough but am glad that Celah is getting so much better. Be sure & Greet him & Aunt Carey for me.

I am clercking (sic) inside now & the store is located on Selby Ave near Summit. You know, where all the millionaires live. It is just ten blocks north of Kits House. How is Emil making it in the Mfg Co. Have their orders slacked up any or have they got more to do than ever.

Clarence figured that five day closing order would cost him about a hundred dollars or better including the other ten days he will have to close. It sure is a pretty tough.

Kit is a great saver & she has awful good meals with all her conservation. She makes a lot of corn cakes & corn breads & stuff like that & dark cakes with other than wheat flour mixed in.

I suppose you are doing a lot of red cross work now too. I have not heard from Vance yet & the folks have not yet either. I wish he would at least write home as mother is quite worried.

Well will have to close as dinner is ready. Write soon.

Your Loving Bro

James

Write soon. How are Elizabeth & Alfred now. Do Nords live next door yet.

Jan 7 1918

Dear Sis Mary

Glad to hear that there is hopes of getting a sweater soon. It is knitting one for Clarence & he wanted to let me help get his first but he knows that there is only about eight inches down the back or front (don't know which) left to knit on his & I don't know what shape mine is in.

Clarence says he would be glad to even get something with a hole to put his head thru. But don't neglect your other work to work on that may quite a few of the boys have got sweaters that their sisters

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whooping cough but am
glad that Celah is getting
so much better. Be sure
& greet him & Aunt Carey for
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on Selby ave near Summit
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ready Write soon

Your loving Bro
James

Write soon

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MISS LINWOOD
ST PAUL
MINN



Miss E. R. E. K.

Grandview

South St. Paul

Letter #102
WVK#1

From: William V.(Vance)King, A.O.B.D.F., Camp Jackson, S.C., 1st
Prov. Co. Sec R2 (Postmark Columbia, SC)

To: Mrs. E.A.Ekern, Flandreau, South Dakota

*Written on YMCA stationery with the motto
"WITH THE COLORS"*

2-1-18 Camp Jackson, S.C.

Dear Sis:

I suppose you think I am dead and buried by this time. I have been going to rite you for some time but have been neglecting my duty, I guess.

This sure is some place. You don't need a overcoat down here very often, as it is quite warm. We sit around with out any coats or hats on most of the time, that is when we are not drilling which is 8 hrs. a day. We get some drill to(sic), I can tell you.

Well to -morrow is inspection day and we have to be rite up in g (sic). We don't have any drill on Sat. so that is what you might call one of our Sun. We have to stand inspection all forenoon though and that is no fun. We get another shot in the arm to-morrow for tyhoid (sic) fever, that means a sore arm for a couple of days. We have to take these all over again as they didnt do it right at J.B. Now ain't that HELL. We only have two more to take, and then we will be thru. I'll show you how it is done when we get back.

Say old girl, we are in another quarentine (sic) now, this time for spinal mennigitis (sic). It is some kind of a bug that crawls around in your back bone and raises hell in general. I don't think there is any danger of my getting it thou as I am to (sic) tough. Don't let the folks know about it as Mother would worry herself sick. This little Bug don't stop our drill any so it isn't so bad. The only thing I don't like about it is, that they stick a piece of wood into our heads every 3 or 4 days to see weather (sic) we have it or not. Say I don't like it, that stick. I never new my head was so hollow. They only put it into my nose about 6 in and what a feeling.

Well I guess I had better stop and go to bed as it is 9 o c. and all good soldiers should be in bed by that time.

So good night, I will rite more later.

From your Bro,

Vance



"WITH THE COLORS"



2/1/18.
Camp Jackson S.C.

Dear Sir:-

I assure you
think I am dead and
buried. By this time, I
have been going to visit
you for some time but
have been neglecting my
duty, I guess.

This place is some
place you don't need a
overcoat down here very
often, as it is quite warm
we sit around with out
any coats or hats on most
of the time, that is when
we are not drilling which
is 8 hrs. a day we get
some drill to, I can tell
you.

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

Page 3

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hey old girl we are in another quarantine now. This time for Spinal Meningitis. It is some kind of a bug that crawls around in your back bone and raises hell in general, I don't think ^{scared} ^{scared}

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from your Bro.

V a c.

address. William V. King

A. O. B. D. 7.

Camp Jackson
S. C.

1st Prov. Co.

Sec. R. 2.



"WITH THE COLORS"

y. m. c. a. Col
With the Colors



Mrs. E. A. Ekeun

Flandreau

South Dakota

y. m. c. a.

y. m. c. a.

y. m. c. a.

Letter #103
WVK#2

From: William V(ance) King, Camp Jackson, S.C.

To: Mary Ekern

Written on stationary headed
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES

2/6/1918

Dear Sis Mary:

I received your welcome letter yesterday. Sure was glad to get it, was going to answer it last nite but didn't have time. So I will do it now. We have a half day off this afternoon. You see we have been in quarentine for 3 weeks and I just got out yesterday afternoon so they gave us a half a day vacation. We were in for meningitis. I didn't let the folks at home here (sic) about it, you know how she worries over things like that. You can let Grace know about it if you want to. I think I told her about it, I will have to rite and tell her we are out before long so nothing will happen to make them think I got the bugs.

Most of the bunch went to town this P.M., but I staid at home, because if I went I would have to buy a hat cord and buttons because they haven't issued them to us yet, we cant go in unless we have them. Hardly anything but niggars in Columbia anyway. SOUR GRAPES.

We have some real officers (sic) at this place. The company commander we have at this place is a prince. He will do anything possiable (sic) for a fellow. And the drill Lieutenant is a prince to (sic). He talks to you like a man not like a slave driver as some of them do. I would just as soon stay here with them as anyplace I know of, but I guess we can't as they ship us as soon as they can. I think we will be out of here before Mar. 1st.

Say what would you think of sitting and riting letters with all the windows open and no fire. That is what I am doing now, this sure is a great climate. I haven't seen snow since I left St. Louis.

I had better stop now as I have two more letters to rite. I will rite again as soon as I get that package.

Say I forgot to tell you I got that package from you that you sent to St. Paul yesterday. It was a long time coming but it sure went fine after it got here. I thank you very muchily. Jim didn't know my address so he couldn't send it before.

Well will close now with love to all.

From your Bro.

Vance
A Buck Private in the rear ranks

American Ordnance Base Depot in France

A.O.B.D.F.

1st Provisional Company

Section R.2. is the name of the St. we are on, and R.2. is the building we are in.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP Jackson D.C.



2/6,

1918.

Dear Sir Mary:-

I received your welcome letter yesterday. sure was glad to get it, I was going to answer it last night but didn't have time, so I will do it now, we have a half a day off, this afternoon, you see we have been in quarantine for 3 weeks and just got out yesterday afternoon so they gave us a half a day vacation we were in for meningitis I didn't let the folks at home here about it as I didn't want mother to hear about it, you know how she worries over things like that, you can let Grace know about it if you want to. I think I told her about it, I will have to write and tell her we are out, before long so nothing will happen to make them think I got the bugs. Most of the bunch went

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a Buck Private in the rear ranks.

American Ordnance Base Depot
in France.

A. O. B. D. F.

First Provisional Company.

Section R. 2. is the name of
the St. we are on, and R. 2. is
the Building we are in.

To: Mrs. E.A. Ekern, Flandreau, S.D.

From: William V. King, 3rd Prov. Ord. Depot B'n, Camp Jackson, S.C.
Co. A, Sec. R.2.

(On same YMCA stationery as above)

2/24/18, Camp Jackson, S.C.

Dear Sis Mary:

Belly full, and feeling fine. I received your letter and also the box of candy. The dirty Six sure devoured it. We have a few small pieces left and the taste still lingers. Say that candy was fine even with the Kiss on it, what? The Dirty Six gives you all the honors at candy manufacturing, both of you. And we all swear to stand by both of you until properly relieved, rule No. 1.

Say you wanted to know what we do in the army. I [t]hought I told you, we drill, that means walk with our feet, and do right about, squads right, columns (sic) right, company right, Battalion right, and all of that stuff. Now you can do this left as well as right and you can also do them wrong, but wo[e] be unto the poor private who does it that way. It only means about 10 days in the mess hall and that means scrubbing out pots, pans, dishes floors and about everything in under the sun.

We get detailed in the kitchen every week any way. They put in 14 men every night to help the next day. They are call K.P.s or Kitchen Police. And then there are also Room orderlies, they take care of the barracks and LATRINE (HO HO notice that word, it means Krapper in other words.) They sweep out and keep the fires going in the Latrene (sic) for the bath.

God damn, God damn, just heard another bad bunch of bad news. God damn again, excuse the profane language but it is entirely nessacery (sic). They just took a fellow out of here, that they think has the scarlet fever, and we are waiting for the quarentine (sic) lid to be slapped on again. The Company next door has got the lid on so I sopose (sic) we have to go in under again, and if we do, I will have to beg of you to send me a bunch of stamps immediately because I wont have a chance to get them as I don't want the folks at home to know about it. I sopose there isn't much danger, but Mother would worry her head off and it is two weeks till pay day and I am bust. You see it is just like this. I get \$30 a month yes. \$15 allottment goes home. They havent got it yet because I rote home to find out. Then \$6.50 goes for insurence (sic), \$2.00 for laundry, \$.25 for Co. fund, and about \$.50 for hair cuts. So you can figure out what I have left to buy tobacco and stamps with. That 30 monthly looked allrite before you enlist but after the gov gets thru with it there isn't much left.

Well we also have base ball games, and on Feb 22, we had a field day, our company ran away with the honors; we had 32 points

and the closest Co. had 11, so you see we are not so slow. We had running races and a tug of war. I was in the tug of war. We pulled for 4 1/2 minutes and lost but that was about the only thing we did lose must have been because I was in it.

Well we had a new change in our Co. name so my new address reads like this. [see heading above] Kind of hard to put on paper.

Well must say good nite. Thanking you and Mrs. Nord for the candy I remain as ever

Yours till death,

Vance

[Enclosure with letter]

Here is a piece of poetry that sure hits the nail on the head for some of the boys. There is an answer for it but it is to (sic) long to copy.

ONLY A VOLUNTEER

Why didn't I wait to be drafted
And be lead (sic) to the train by a band
And put in a claim for exemption --
Oh why did I hold up my hand
Why didn't I wait for the banquets?
" " " " to be cheered
For the drafted men get the credit
While I only volunteered
And nobody gives us a banquet
No one says a kind word,
The puff of the engine, the grind of the wheel
Was all the good-bye I heard.
Then off to the training camp we hurled
And in the shuffle forgotten
To be trained for the rest of the year.
I was merely a volunteer.
And perhaps some day in the future
When my little boy sits on my knee,
And asks me, what I done in the great war
With his little eyes looking at me,
I must look back into those eyes
That so innocently and truthfully peer
And tell him I was not drafted
I was merely a volunteer.



"WITH THE COLORS"



2/24, 18.

Camp Jackson D.C.

Dear Sis Mary:-

Belly full, -
and feeling fine, I received
your letter and also the
box of candy. The dirty six
sure devoured it. we have
a few small pieces left
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say that candy was fine
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it. what? The Dirty six
gives you all the honors
at candy manufacturing
both of you. And we all
swear to stay by both
of you until properly
released, rule no. 1.

Say you wanted to
know what we do in
the army, I thought I

told you, we drill, that
means ~~walk~~ with our
feet, and do right about,
Squads right, Columns right,
Company right, Battalion right,
and all of that stuff
Now you can do this
left as well as right
and you can also do
them wrong, but we be-
lieve the poor private that
does it that way, it
only means about 10
days in the mess hall
and that means scrub-
bing out pots, pans, dishes
floors and about everything
in under the sun.
we get detailed in the
kitchen every week any way
they put in 14 men every
nite to help the next
day, they are called K.P's.
or Kitchen police, and then
there are also Room order-
lies, they take care of
the barracks and Lathes



"WITH THE COLORS"



(Ho. Ho notice that word, it means Krupper. in other words,)

I hey sweep out and keep the fires going in the latrine for the bath.

God damn, God damn, just heard another bad bunch of bad news

God damn again, excuse the profane language, but it is entirely necessary. I hey just took a fellow out of here, that they think has the scarlet fever, and we are waiting for the quarantine to be slapped on again. The company next door has got the lid on so

I suppose we have to
go in under again.
And if we do, I will
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folks at home to know
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"WITH THE COLORS"



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for 4½ minutes and lost
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HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER

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William V. King
3rd. Prov. Ord. Depot B'n.
Camp Jackson
D.C.

Co. A.

Sec. R. 2.

Kind of hard to put
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well must say
good nite I thank you
and Mrs. Wood for the
candy I remain as ever
yours till death.
Vance



"WITH THE COLORS"



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and put in a claim for exemption -
Oh why did I hold up my hand
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" " " " No be chosen?

For the drafted men get the credit
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And nobody gives us a banquet
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The puff of the engine, the grind of the wheel
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I ran off to the training camp we hushed
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I was merely a volunteer.
and perhaps some day in the future
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That so innocently and truthfully gave,
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Here is a piece of poetry
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mark on the head,
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I hope is an answer for
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Letter #105
WVK#4

To: Mrs. E.A. Ekern, Flandreau, Sou. Dak.

From: Priv. W.V. King, 3rd. Prov. Ord. B'N. Co.A. Sec.R.2., Camp Jackson, S.C.

2/27/18. Camp Jackson S.C.

Dear Sis Mary:

I will slip you a short note to-nite, as I have 40 minutes to spare. I am on guard duty to-day and also to-nite. I am on Third releaf (sic). I go on from 8 P.M. to 10 P.M. from 2 A.M. to 4 A.M. and from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. two hrs on and 4 hrs off. Oh this do be a great life.

Well I dont know whether I had better keep on riting or not as the fellows in the guard house here are telling things that wouldnt look very good. One fellow is telling how he got Poison Ivy on his hands and took a leak and now he walks in a straddle position. Another has his rectum poisoned. Oh what a beautiful place. Oh what didnt happen in the army aint worth telling about.

Well Sis, we are leaving inside of 10 days. I cant just exactly tell you when.

I must close now and go out and walk for two more hours.

So good nite

Lots of Love

Received your letter but not the package yet.

As ever Vance

2/28/18 Camp Jackson, S.C.

Again dear Sis:

Owing to lack of sleep and a poor brain I forgot to mail your letter this morning so I will try and rite a few more lines and send it over again.

We signed the muster roll again to-day, that means pay roll. I think I will get about \$3.00 this month on account of the feed and captains present. You have to squeeze the almighty dollar pretty hard to make it last from one pay day to the next.

When you enlist they say \$30 a month, but after you get in, it is closer to five then (sic) it is to \$15.

There was a new bunch of drafted fellows just came into our company this afternoon. But I dont sopose (sic) we will be here long enough to get acquainted (sic) with them.

Well there isnt much more to rite about and I need a little sleep this afternoon so I guess I will close.

With Lot of Love to all.

Vance



"WITH THE COLORS"



2/27/18.
Camp Jackson S.C.

Dear Sis Mary:-

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So good night
Lots of Love

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Dance

Srd. Prov. Ord. BN.

Camp Jackson
S.C.



"WITH THE COLORS"



2/28, 18.

Camp Jackson S.C.

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With lot of love to all.
Vance.



"WITH THE COLORS"



Mrs. E. A. Ehem
Flandreau

So. Dak.

William
William
William

Letter #106
JHPK#2

TO: Mrs E A Ekern, Flandreau, S Dak

FROM: James King, 1302 Linden Ave, Minneapolis, Minn

Mar 10 /18

Dear Sis Mary

I received your letter & was glad to hear from you but the reason I have not wrote is because I have been so busy lately & so blame discouraged with the treatment this regiment has been getting.

They wont call us out & they will not let us enlist in any other branch of the service so what is a poor fellow going to do. It is enough to make any man sick.

But we are looking for the good word to come before April first.

In spite of all discouragement we still have hopes.

I am rooming with a fellow in Minneapolis now. I liked it fine at Kits but there are more of the boys in the regiment here in Minneapolis & I never got out with the boys over there so here I am. We have great times. We have got an electric stove & cook our breakfast & supper in our rooms & take our dinner out. It is in a kitchenette apt house & we pay \$15 a month for our room. Well must close & write to Vance.

Your Loving Bro

Jim

Was over to Kits for dinner today.

Greet Uncle Selah for me.

I sold that Frank Drahota a motorcycle two yrs ago. He used to come into my shop pretty near every Sat in the summer.

Greet Uncle Lelah for me.

Mar 10/18

I sold that Trans Diabolo a motorcycle
two yrs ago. He used to come in to
my shop pretty near every sat in
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Dear Sir Mary

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& cook our breakfast ^{& supper} in our
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it is in a kitchenette apt house
& we pay \$15 a month for our
room. Well must close &
write to Vance

^{was over at Kito for}
your loving Bro
Cain
^{change to-day}



Mrs E A Ekern
Hancock
S. Dak.

Letter # 107
JHPK #3

To: Mrs E A Ekern, Flandreau, S Dak

From: James King (postmark) Anthony Hill Sta, St. Paul, Minn.

3/20/18

Dear Sis Mary

Thanks very much for the cookies. We had two of the boys come up & eat supper with us sunday & we all voted them exelent (*sic*).

I guess we will not get our mobilization date until Baker gets back from France but we are living in hopes & sticking with our Fighting Colnel (*sic*). Such persistency as he has shown is bound to win. Darn Crowder & his dirty politics.

I havent much heart to write letters now but when we get into camp I will have more to write about.

I just wrote a letter to Mother & Vance & must write to Theo tonight also.

Aunt Theo sent me a box of candy last week.

We have a very Good time batching it & live good too.

We are having class in map work now every Tue & Thur night & it is very interesting.

Well write soon & I will write more later.

Your Loving Bro

Jim

3/20/18

Dear Sis Mary

Thank very
much for the cookies
we had two of the boys
come up & eat supper with
us Sunday & we all
voted them excellent.

I guess we will
not get our mobilization
date until ~~we~~ Barker gets
back from France but
we are living in hopes
& sticking with our
fighting. Colnel Such
persistence as he has
shown is bound to win.
Damn Crowder & his dirty
Politics

I haven't much heart to
write letters now but when
we get into camp I will
have more to write about.

I just wrote a letter
to Mother & Vance &
must write to Theo off to night
also.

Aunt Theo sent me a
box of candy last week.

We have a very
good time watching it &
live good too.

We are having class
in map work now every
Tue & Thur night & it is
very interesting.

Will write soon
& I will write more later.

Your loving Bro
Jim

10.00
04 1/2

5.00
4.00

10.45-00 1st yr.

4 1/2

5.22 1/2

\$1.80

\$7.07 1/2

10.47 2nd yr.



Mrs E A Elmer

Flanahan

S. J. D.

9th
10th
11th
12th
13th
14th
15th
16th
17th
18th
19th
20th
21st
22nd
23rd
24th
25th
26th
27th
28th
29th
30th
31st

To: Mrs. E. A. Ekern, Flandreau, So Dak

From: Wm. V. King, Co. A. 1st Reg. 3rd D'n. ORD. Tr. Camp, Camp Hancock, Ga.

4,29,18. Camp Hancock, Ga.

Dear Sis Mary:

I received your welcomed letter yesterday. Sure was glad to hear from you.

Say I dont know whether I understood you or not when you said that you were sorry that the Dirty Six were scattered, but perhaps we were having too good a time anyway. Now Sis, I will slip you something. All the good times a soldier gets in the army now he sure is welcome to because it is few and far between. Please dont get an Idea that a soldier's life is a bed of roses. Maby (sic) Uncle Jno. gave you some of his dope. He made the remark that I was always a cronick (sic) kicker. Real nice of him I assure you. I will tell you this much and that is if Jno. had to go through some of the things we go through, he would be dead long ago. No more of this now. Mabe I am what he says I am.

Well I have a nice new job now. I gave up the job of acting corporal for a job of mule skinning. I thought I would like to try something different. I have a four mule team and one wagon. They sure are a fine team, all of them ladies. They like to shake hands with you most any time (with there hind [sic] feet). But I guess all mules are alike. We only have to work seven days a week now so it isnt so bad. I guess after we catch up with the work we will have Sundays off. I dont know though. Gee I wish U.S. would give me a blue hat cord and a rifle, send me over and give me a chance to do something toward winning this war.

Well Sis, there must be some mistake about sending packages to soldiers. He must have meant to soldiers over in France. No one around hear (sic) knows any thing about it. If you mail or send a package they cant return it unless it dont reach the rite (sic) address.

Well must close. Thanking you for your letter. With Lots of Love

Vance



"WITH THE COLORS"



4, 29, 18.

Camp Hancock ga.

Dear his Mary:-

I received
your welcomed letter
yesterday and was
glad to hear from
you.

say I don't know
whether I understood
you or not when
you said that you
were very the
dirty his were
scattered, But perhaps
we were having
too good a time
anyway. now sis.

I will slip you
something all the
good times a soldier
gets in the army

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

now he sure is
welcome to. Because
it is few and far
between. please
don't get an idea
that a soldier's life
is a bed of roses.
make Uncle Geo.
gave you some of
his dope. He made
the remark that
I was always a
crotch kicker. Real
nice of him I
assure you. I will
tell you this much
and that is if Geo.
had to go through
some of the things
we go through, he
would be dead long
ago. No more of
this now, make so
and, what he says
I am.

well I have a



Mr William

"WITH THE COLORS"

Co. A. 1st. Reg.

3rd. B'n. Ord. Tr. Camp
Camp Hancock
Ga.



new job now. I
gave up the job
of acting corporal for
a job of mule
skinning. I thought
I would like to
try something different.
I have a four
mule team and
one wagon. They
are a fine
team. all of them
ladies. I like
to shake hands
with you most any
time. (with their
hand feet). But I
~~must~~ ^{must} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~live~~ ^{live} mules
are alike. we only
have to work seven
days a week now

so it isn't so bad.
I guess after we
catch up with the
work we will have
Sundays off. I don't
know though. I'll
I wished U.S. would
give me a flur
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over and give me
a chance to do
something toward winning
this war.

well sir. There
must be some mistake
about sending packages
to soldiers. I must
have meant to soldiers
over in France. No
one around here knows
any thing about it.

If you mail or
send a package they
can't return it unless
it don't reach the
site address. well must

To: Mrs E A Ekern, Flandreau, S.Dak.

From: Private James H.P.King, Casual Co. No 1, Camp Colt, Gettysburg, P.A. (sic)

Envelope with Tank Corps logo ("Treat 'Em Rough"), postmarked Gettysburg, Pa, 20 May 1918.

May 19 - 18

Dear Sis Mary

Well I am spending my Third week in camp & this is only my Third letter. I just got my Third shot in the arm yesterday & Thank God it is my last. The first Five days I spent in camp were in the Hospital for Tonsilitus (sic). They sure treat you fine in there. There were 18 cots in the shack I was in & there were 2 nurses in the day time & 1 at night & a couple of orderlies all the time. I can't say enough for the Hospitals in the army. Your every little wish was Gratified & the Grub is absolutely the Best.

Since I have been in the Causal (sic) Co. the Grub is not so Good as there are so many men coming in every day That the cooks are having a hard time feeding them. But the boys that have been assigned tell me the Grub is real good there. I am expecting to be assigned most any day now.

I go on gaurd (sic) duty again to-night at 5. This is my third trick at gaurd duty. You have to sleep in the gaurd house while on gaurd duty. You are on for 24 hours. In the 24 hours you are walking Post 2 hrs & then sleep 4 hrs. Then 2 hrs on & 4 off until the 24 hours is up.

This being Sunday I guess we will get a pretty Good meal. Some of the fellows on Kitchen Police say we are going to have chicken for dinner today.

Sundays we do not get up until 6.45 & reveille at 7. On week days we get up at 5.45, reveille at 6.00, breakfast at 6.30. Then we take our bedding out for airing if weather permits & clean up our Bunk House. We drill just four hours a day in the Causal Co. from 7.30 to 11.30. Dinner at 12. In the after noons we play Games and take hikes out thru the Battle fields and the officers explain the History of the Battles (sic) fought here 55 years ago.

Every direction you look you can see statues monuments & towers for climbing up & looking over the battlefield. The best veiw (sic) is from the top of little Round top mountain.

The other day we took a hike along confederate ave. & saw all the guns that were used in the first days fighting. They have Cannon posted all over the Battle field where they were used

at that time. We also saw the school house that Longstreet went to school in. Gee it is some shack just a little log cabin about 12' by 15'.

Well I must close as my arm is pretty sore & will write soon again.

Your Loving Bro

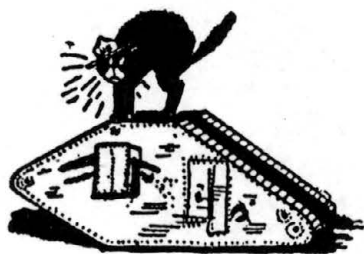
Private James H.P.King

Please ans at once.

Greet Uncle Selah & Fambly for me.

I wrote this on my suit case in my bunk.

TANK CORPS



TREAT EM ROUGH



Causal Co. no 1
Camp Colt
Gettysburg
P.A.

Dear Sis Mary May 19-18

Well I am spending
my third week in camp & this
is only my third letter. I just
got my third shot in the arm
yesterday & thank God it is
my last. The first five days
I spent in camp while in the
hospital for tonsillitis. They
sure treat you fine in there
there were 18 cots in the shack
I was in & there are 2 nurses

in the day time & ⁽²⁾ at night & a couple of orderlies all the time. I can't say enough for the Hospital in the army your every little wish was gratified. & The grub is absolutely the Best.

Since I have been in the Casual Co. the grub is not so good as there are so many men coming in every day that the cooks are having a hard time feeding them. But the boys that have been assigned tell me that the grub is real good there. I am expecting to be assigned most any day now.

I go on guard duty again to night at 5. This is my third trick at guard duty. You have to sleep in the guard house while on guard duty. You are on for 24 hours in the 24 hours you are walking Post 2 hrs & then sleep 4 hrs then 2 hrs on & 4 off until the 24 hours is up

This Being Sunday I guess we will get a pretty good meal. Some of the fellows on Kitchen Police tell me we are going to have chicken for dinner today.

Sundays we do not get up until 6.45 & reveille at 7. On week days we get up at 5.45 & reveille at 6.00 Breakfast at 6.30 Then we take our Bedding out for airing if weather permits & clean up our Bunk House. We drill just four hours a day in the Casual Co. from 7.30 to 11.30 dinner at 12 in the after noons we play Games and take rifles out there the Battle fields and the officers explain the History of the Battles fought here 52 years ago. Every direction you look you can see statues monuments & towers for climbing up

& looking over the battle field
The best view is from the top
of little Round top mountain
The other day we took a
kiss along Confederate ave.
& saw all the guns that were
used in the first days fighting
They have Cannon posted all
over the battle fields where
they were used at that time
We also saw the school house
that Long street went to school
in. gee it is some shack just
a little log cabin about 12' by
15'. Well I must close as
my arm is pretty sore & will
write soon again

Your Loving Bro
Private James H. King
Please and at once I wrote this on
Sweet Uncle Selah my suit case in
& tenderly my bunk
for me

TANK CORPS



TREAT EM ROUGH



Mrs E A Ekern
Landreau
L. Dak.

To: Mrs E A Ekern, Flandreau, S.Dak.

From: Private James H.P.King, Casual Co. No 1, Camp Colt, Gettysburg, Pa.

Envelope & stationery with Tank Corps logo.

May 24 1918

Dear Sis Mary

I got the cake & cookies day before yesterday & talk about eat. I cut the cake & give three or four of my friends a piece & they all voted you a more than exelent (sic) cook.

Then my chum (who comes from Kansas where he held the position of cashier in Neodesha a town of about 6000 population) & I ate what there was left of it when we got thru work last night. He is working up at Headquarters for a while as they are short of help & the other day just as I thought I was to be assigned to a regular company I was ordered to take charge of Barracks 12 so I am acting sergeant now. But it means an awful lot of work as now there is just one lieutenant (sic) & one sergeant in charge of each Barracks & as the Lieutenant is hardly ever here it throws all the work on me. I have got charge of about 50 men & they are transferring (sic) these & filling up with new men every day. I have to change my roster every morning & then I have to pick the men for Kitchen Police & Guard Duty & I am supposed to know at all times where all the men are & get them to bed at night before Taps 10 oclock & up in the morning for reveille & as they are all new men I have to keep riding them all day to keep their bunks in order & drill them besides & I will be glad when they transfer me so I will be a Buck private as I think I will be able to work up pretty fast. At least I intend to study hard for a non com job as there are only 30 Buck Pvt. in a company of 220 men. I was picked from about 7 men for this job so all in all I feel pretty Proud & I have a very nice Lieutenant over me who started as a Buck Private in 1911 & he sure is a prince.

My chum Harvey Woodring & my self went down town last night & I guess Gettsburg (sic) is trying to stay as much like it was in the civil war as possible. They say the population is about 5000 but even Flandreau is farther advanced than this Burg.

Well I must close & get the men out for retreat (that's when the flag is lowered) & will write as soon as I get time again. Thanking you again for the excelent cake

I remain Your Loving Bro

James

Enclosed is a service pin which very few people have the honor of wearing as the tank corps is the Highest Branch of service there is. You will have to wear a separate pin for Vance.

I sure would like to hear from Vance as I have not heard a word as to where he is for over a month.

Please write often as you dont know how it cheers a fellow up when he is so far from home & I have only received two Letters since I arrived here one from Home & one from Kit.

Greet Uncle Selah & family for me.

TANK CORPS



TREAT EM ROUGH



Pvt. James KP Ridge
Casual Co
Camp Colt
Gettysburg Pa.
May 24-1818

Dear Sis Mary

I got the Cake & Cookies
day before yesterday & talk
about it. I cut the Cake & give
three or four of my friends a
piece & they all voted you
a more than excellent cook.
Then my chum (who came
from Kansas where he held the
position of cashier in Neodesha
a town of about 6000 population)
& ate what there was left
of it when we got there

work last night. He is working up
at Head quarters for awhile. They are
short of help & the other day just as
I thought I was to be assigned to a
regular company I was decided to
take charge of Barracks 12 as I am
acting Sergeant now but it means
an awful lot of work as now there
is just one Lieutenant & one sergeant
in charge of each Barracks & as the
Lieutenant is hardly ever here it
throws all the work on me I have
got charge of about 50 men & they
are transferring these & filling up with
new men every day. I have to change
my roster every morning & then I
have to pick the men for Kitchen
Police & Guard Duty & I am sup-
posed to know at all times where all
the men are. I get them to bed at
night before 10 o'clock & up in
the morning for reveille & as they
are all new men I have to keep
riding them all day to keep their
Bunks in order & drill them Besides
I will be glad when they transfer
me so I will be a Buck private as
I think I will be able to work up pretty
fast. At least I intend to study hard
for a non. Com. job as there are only
30 Buck Pvt. in a company of
120 men. I was picked from about

7 men for this job. Hall in all
I feel pretty proud. & I have
a very nice Lieutenant over me
who started as a Buck Private in
1911 & he sure is a Prince.

My Thum Hawk Woodring &
myself went down town last
night & guess Gettysburg is
trying to stay as much like it
was in the Civil War as possible.
They say the Population is about
5000 but even Handrean is
farther advanced than this Burg.
Well I must close & get the men
out for retreat. That's when the
flag is lowered & will write
as soon as I get time again. Thanking
you again for the excellent cake.
I remain your loving Bro
James

James
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people have the honor of wearing as
the tank corp is the highest branch of
service there is.

You will have
to wear a separate
pair for Vance.

I sure would
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as to where he is for
over a month.

Please write
often as you don't
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a fellow up when he
is so far from home
& I have only received
two letters since I
~~arrived~~ here one
from home & one from
Kit

Greet Uncle Selah
& family for me

TANK CORPS



TREAT EM ROUGH



Mr E A Keen
Flanahan
L. Dak.
Ed

Letter # 111
WVK # 6

To: Mrs. E.A. Ekern, Flandreau, So Dak, USA

From: Pvt. Wm V King Co. A. 3rd PO B'n. 741 Army Post Office,
Amer. Ex. Force, via New York

(postmark US Army Postal Service June 22)

Censored by RG Browning, 1st. Lieut. 3rd B.N.O.

6-18-18, France

Dear Sis:

It has been some time since I last wrote (sic). and I suppose (sic) I ought to apologize (sic), but we have been quite busy lately moving from one place to another. We had a real nice trip across (sic) the Briney Deep. Never a sub, at least I didn't see any of them. It only took us about two weeks to cross so it wasn't bad. I never saw so much water in my life. After the first 24 hrs. out you could look any direction you wanted to, and all you could see was water. We saw a few large fish after we got out away, some about 6 ft. in length and about 3 days out from this side we saw 5 whales, so I guess there must be something in the ocean besides water and salt. Say that water is about the saltiest I ever tasted. You can't use it for drinking, and it isn't much good for bathing, and there is too much of it to go boat riding in, so what is it good for. Do you suppose this is where the Lord put the water he used during the flood?

This country is sure beautiful and I think I would like to travel over here a while, but to tell the honest to god truth there is only one country and that is, U.S.

Well Sis, I guess I will have to close for this time. So will close with Love to all from your Bro

Vance



"WITH THE COLORS"



6-18-18
France.

Dear Sir:-

It has been
some time since
I last wrote and I
regret I ought
to apologize, but
we have been
quite busy lately
moving from one
place to another.
We had a real
nice trip across
the Briny Deep, never
a sea-sick, at least I
didn't see any
of them, I only
stuck us about
two weeks to cross.

Help your Country by Saving. Write on BOTH Sides of this Paper.



"WITH THE COLORS"



you can't use
it for drinking,
and it isn't much
good for bathing,
and there is so
much of it to
go about finding
out what is
it good for. I
you remember this
is where the Lord
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raised during the
flood.

This country is
sure beautiful and
I think I would
like to travel over
here a while, but

Help your Country by Saving. Write on BOTH Sides of this Paper.

Letter #111

so it wasn't bad.
I never saw so
much water in
my life after the
first 24 hrs. out
you could look
any direction you
wanted to, and all
you could see was
water. we saw
a few large fish
after we got out
barways, some about
6 ft. in length and
about 3 days out
from this side we
saw 5 whales, so
I guess there must
be something in
the ocean besides
water and salt, say
that water is
about the saltiest,
I never tasted

to tell the honest
to gods truth, there
is only one country
and that is, U. S.
well his
guess I will
have to close
for this time.
I will close
with Love to
all.

from your Dad
Dancer.

Prof. William V. King
Co. A. 3rd P. O. B'n.

741 Army Post Office
Amer. Ex. Forces.

Via New York.

P. E. Browning
1st St Ord Wa

William V. King
Co. A. 3rd P. O. Box
7th Army Post Office
Amer. Exp. Forces
Via New York.

AMERICAN



Mrs. E. A. Churn
Flandreau

So. Dak.

U. S. A.



Post. Exch. Bldg. Wash. D.C.

Letter #112
WVK#7

To: Mrs E.A. Ekern, Flandreau, So Dak

From: William V King Co. A. 3rd P.O. B'n. A.P.O. 741, Amer. X.
Forces, via New York

(postmark US Army Post Office 17-9-18)

Censored by R E Browning 1st. Lieut. Ord. C.N.A.

9-15-18, France

Dear Sis:

I received your letter Dated Aug 16. It sure was a surprise (sic) to hear from you. I had begun to think that you had quit riting (sic).

We just got thru with dinner, so I guess I will have time to rite a few words. In the distance I hear a chinaman making a noise on some kind of a machine. It sounds like the wreck of [the] "Hasperous." I dont know what that is, but, it is just as bad as that. We have a couple of hundred chinks at this camp. They call themselves, "ordnance men". They say, you pick and shovel, me pick and shovel too, all the same ord. I guess mabe they are rite at that.

Well as I was saying we just finished dinner. We had Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, creamed Peas, Bread pudding, Bread, Butter and coffee. I guess we will have a light supper to-night, as most of the boys will be in town. Potatoe Salad, cold caned (sic) Willie, Jam, Bread, and coffee.

We soldiers in France dont have so much of a variety, but what we do have we have plenty of.

Did you know that I was cooking now. I dont remember whether I told you about it or not. Yes I am first cook on our shift. But al (sic) I get out of it is the honor. They havent given any ratings yet over here and they didnt have enough to go around on the other side. Well we dont get much money, but we have a hell of a good time ? "Shakespeare".

It sure does rain in this country when it starts. It just got thru with a ten day splurge Fri. and it sure is a releaf (sic) to have a little sunshine again.

Oh yes, about that package. I think, if I remember rite, I got it the day we left Merritt (?) and ate it on thr Ferry Boat while we were leaving New York. It sure was fine. I think I rote you about it before, but mabe you didnt get the letter.

Well Sis I must close for this time thanking you for every thing. Say hello to the bunch. OK

As ever your Bro

9-15-18.

France.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter, dated Aug. 16, ^{18. will do.} It was a surprise, to hear from you, I had begun to think that you had quit writing.

We just got there with dinner, so I guess I will have time to write a few words. In the distance I hear a chinaman,

3.

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It sounds like the
wreck of "Hesperous," I
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is, but, it is just
as bad as that. we
have a couple of hundred
chinks at this camp.
They call themselves,
"ordnance men"; they
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all the same ord. I
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over here and they didn't
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get much money, but
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good time? "Shakespeare"
It sure does rain

in this country, where it
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sure was fine, I think
I write you about it

before, but make you
didn't get the letter.

well his must
do for this time
thanking you for every-
thing.

My hellos to the

Bunch.

B. K.

as well your Bros.

1st. Lt. ord. c. n. a.
William V. King
co. a. 3rd. P. O. B'n.

A. P. O. 741

A. K.

P. J. Dwyer
Chaplain

Amv. X. Forces

is. New York.

William V. King
U. S. A.

Soldiers



Mrs. E. A. Eken

F. L. L. L. L.

So. Dak.

S. K.

P. L.

Tab. L. L.



C. N. A.

To: Mary King Ekern (envelope missing)

From: Sgt. James H.P. King, 316 S&R Co., 302nd Tank Center, APO
714, Amer. E. F.

Oct 30 1918

Dear Sis Mary

I have not had a letter from you Sis for so long that I wonder if you have forgotten me. But I can plainly see the reason as I get letters a month & a half old. I hope it does not take as long for this to reach you.

I celebrated my birthday with a feed but when I tell you what the feed was I don't suppose you will think it much of a celebration.

We each had a three egg omelet which was very fine a small steak which also tasted very good to me (but if served a steak like it in the states I would have thrown it at the waiter & probably knocked him down) & big plate of french fried potatoes.

Eggs cost a dollar & twenty cents a dozen so you see they are a pretty scarce article here. Some places we can buy them off the farmers for five Francs a dozen which is about ninety three cents. But you cannot get them very often.

I got a letter from Vance the other day but as yet I have been unable to locate the place he is at, as all I have is his post office number. I think he knows where I am though & perhaps we may be able to meet someplace latter (sic) I sincerely (sic) hope so.

I sure rains a lot in this country but when it stops & we get good weather it is about as nice as you can possibly imagine nice weather to be. Just like our Indian summer days at home. The last three days have been fine.

I sure do get lonesome for my dog & gun when ever I see a good day for ducks. Some of the boys from up around Minneapolis & St. Paul get letters from there telling them that hunting is good this year.

I am enclosing a little souvenir which I hope reaches you by Xmas O.K.. Heres hoping that the Kaizer (sic) will be holding up a snow bank by that time & we are homeward bound.

Yesterday I stepped up another notch & am now acting 1st sergeant. And it is now up to me to get busy & make good.

We can buy American chocolates & cigarettes so we want
for nothing. I will close Hoping you are all as well as I am.

Your Loving Bro
Jim

Please Greet Uncle Selah & family for me.

(countersigned) G.M.Norton
Lieutenant (*sic*)
U.S.Army

Oct 30 1916

Dear Sis Mary

I have not had a letter from you sis for so long that I wonder if you have forgotten me. But I can plainly see the reason as I get letters a month & a half old. I hope it does not take as long for this to reach you.

I celebrated my birthday with a feed. But when I tell you what the feed was I don't suppose you will think it much of a celebration.

We each had a three egg omelet which was very fine a small steak which also tasted very good to me (but if served a steak like it in the States I would have thrown it at the waiter & probably have knocked him down) & a big plate of french fried potatoes.

Eggs cost a dollar & twenty cents a dozen so you see they are a pretty scarce article here. Some places we can buy them of the farmers for five francs a dozen which is about ninety three cents. But you cannot get them very often.

I got a letter from Vance the other day but as yet I have been unable to locate the place he is at, as all I have is his post office number. I think he knows where I am though & perhaps we may be able to

meet some place latter. I sincerely hope so.

It sure rains a lot in this country but when it stops & we get good weather it is about as nice as you can possibly imagin nice weather to be. Just like our Indian summer days at home. The last three days have been fine.

I sure do get homesome for my dog & gun when ever I see a good day for ducks. Some of the boys from up around Minneapolis & St. Paul get letters from there telling them that hunting is good this year.

I am enclosing a little souvenir which I hope reaches you by Xmas O.K. Here's hoping that the Kaizer will be holding up a snowbank by that time & we are homeward bound.

Yesterday I stepped up another notch & am now acting 1st sergeant. And it is now up to me to get busy & make good.

We can buy American Chocolates & cigarettes so we want for nothing. I will close hoping you are all as well as I am your loving Bro
Jim

L. M. Norton
Lieutenant
U.S. Army

Sgt James A. P. King
216th S & R Co
302nd Tank Center
A. P. O. 714
Amer. C. F.

Please Greet Mable Selah
& family for me

Letter #114

June 3 1933

From: James H.P. King

To: Mr. & Mrs. R.G. King

(Postmark on postcard) June 3 1933

Dear Geo & Rena & Kiddies

This is the resort I am stopping at this summer. Kind of neat dont you think so. My room is on the second floor of the four story part & I am nearly under the tower. Pretty little girl to make my bed every morning & give me a bath twice a week.

As Ever Bro & Uncle
Jim

