

Burton L. Rider

Spanish American war
Letters

1898



Cedar Lake Cemetery, Herkimer County, N.Y.



Burton L. Resider

The Spanish American war - 1898-1902



“Remember the Maine”

The war started with the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain. The U.S. sent the Battleship Maine to protect American interests in Cuba. After a deadly on-board explosion, killing all aboard, the Battleship Maine sank in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. The U.S. Congress declared war On April 25, 1898. The war covered the Philippine Islands, Cuba and Porto Rico. Combat lasted 10 weeks. In the Philippines, Commodore George Dewey sailed into Manila harbor on May 1 and destroyed the old out of date Spanish fleet. Re-enforced by the Army under Major General Wesley Merritt, Manila was occupied on August 13, 1898. The Navy seized Guam and Wake islands and Congress annexed Hawaii.

In the Caribbean, U.S. troops under General Shafter landed in Cuba in late June. These forces included regular soldiers as well as volunteers. The most famous being Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders and his charge up San Juan Hill. On July 3, the Spanish Admiral Cervera made a dash for the open sea out of Santiago de Cuba (Havana) harbor. The guns of Rear Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley sank most of the Spanish fleet in less than 4 hours. On July 17, Santiago and Cuba's troops surrendered. Madrid sued for peace 9 days later.

The regular Army had only 28,000 men when the war broke out. The National Guard numbered 100,000. Congress authorized a twofold increase in the size of the Army and an initial enlistment of 125,000 volunteers. Burton L. Rider was one of those volunteers.

When he departed Oswego he left with these issued items:

- Campaign hat & cap
- Blue shirts and trousers
- Knapsack, Haversack
- Canteen & forty rounds of ammunition
- In his Knapsack he carried:
 - 2 suits of underwear, 2 extra socks
 - Extra pair of shoes
 - Soap, towels, & other toilet supplies
- On top: Rubber pouch & overcoat
- Plus 5 days rations



Burton L. Rider

Private

48th Separate Company
Company D. 3rd. Regiment
New York Volunteer Infantry
1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Army Corps

Major Albert M. Hall, C. O.
Captain H. D. Tifft
Lieutenant Fred L. Plattburg
Sergeant William J. Dunn

On May 1, 1898, he left the East Side Armory in Oswego marching to the R. W. & O. Railway Depot on W. First & Utica St. to depart for Camp Black. He arrived at Camp Black, Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y. on May 3. He was there until May 28 when he took a train from Hempstead, Long Island, a Ferry to Jersey City, a train to Philadelphia through Washington D.C. to Dunn Loring, Va. which is 9 miles out of Washington D.C. He was at Camp Russell A. Alger, Dunn Loring from May 29 to August 18 when he left for Falls Church, Va. He was then sent through Washington D.C. and Baltimore through York to Pittsburgh and finally on August 20 to Camp Meade in Middletown, Pa. which is outside of Harrisburg. After September 11 he left Camp Meade for home. He was officially mustered out December 1, 1898.

B. L. Rider's letters home

during the Spanish American War

These are letters from Burton Lynn Rider while in the U.S Volunteer Army during the Spanish American War - 1898 to 1902. He enlisted on February 26, 1898, volunteering for two years. He was 35 years old with a wife, Laura and two children, Lillie (11 years) and baby Ethel (10 months). He left Oswego on May 1 and returned in mid September 1898. He was officially discharged December 1, 1898. Mary Rider, my mother, the youngest daughter was born in 1900, two years after his return. Laura was living in Menitto, Oswego County, New York. She also had an address at Sanquoit, Oneda County and Cedar Lake, Herkimer County, New York.

These are some of the letters he wrote to Laura, Lillie and Charlie. They are as verbatim as we could make them. His handwriting was a challenge at times. He had very long sentences with no punctuation, which we broke up with periods and comas for clarity. The grammar was left as is. We did change some spelling such as furlow to furlough, and gard to guard. Frequently he dropped the last letter of his words. We corrected these for ease of reading and understanding. He wrote home regarding a soldier's life in camp. The letters contain personal and interesting thoughts, feelings and questions. Most of the time he was placed in charge of the commissary for his Company. He was worried about income for Laura and was very aware of money matters and Army pay. He washed clothing for the men in camp to earn extra money, which he constantly sent home. He was a typical soldier as he was homesick, lonesome, angry, hot, cold and at times unhappy with his duty, the officers and in general the Army. Most of the letters were written in pencil. Paper was also scarce, so he used every bit of space available.

The italicized areas in brackets are our best guess as to what he wrote and dates of the letters. The numbers in parenthesis (#) refer to the pages 2, 3, etc. in the letters.

He started most of his letters with "Dear Wife and Children", "Dear Family & Friends". He signed off with his initials "BLR" or "BL Rider". Charlie was a border and had worked with him in the factory. Ben was their dog.

H. Burt Underwood
2004

LETTERS

May 2, 1898

Monday Morning 9:30

Dear Family and friends

We are here on the train waiting to go to Hempstead. Nothing of important yet. Had a good sleep last night. There was a big farm all along the road until we left Utica. We did not stop until we got to Albany. We had sandwich & coffee for supper & coffee & sandwich for breakfast. In our comfort sack from Mrs. Oliphant we got a pad, Bible, comb, needles, thread, buttons, chewing gum, paper & tobacco, looking glass, yarn, bandage, pins,

- (2) matches & safe envelopes, pencil and a number of other small articles. We are going to start now and I can't write any more this time. Remember me to all. All well and feeling well. Good by. BL Rider.
P.S. Don't write until you hear from me again. BLR
Engine just jumped the track no one hurt.

May 3, 1898

Address Camp Black, Hempstead

Camp Black

Dear Family, tuesday, May 3,

My Birthday. I am all right yet. I am on guard duty today. Our company is under special orders. We are all packed ready to start in five minutes and are under orders to that effect. There are 9,000 men here. Had a good sleep last night. We are on a plain 15 miles long and 13 miles wide and can see from one end to the other. We are at the south west corner. The tents are as straight as you can draw a line. We had meat, potatoes,

- (2) coffee, bread & butter & C. Everyone seems to be happy. We are drawing state pay \$1.25 a day. Horns, drums and fifes going some where all the time. We had two hours drill this morning. You will get all the news concerning our Company in the Palladium. We have just had received orders to get ready to move. Don't know where we are going. Address as above. Good by. BLR.
- (3) Thank for the pictures. Did not know they were here until this morning?

(Sideways on letter)

1 cup sugar
1 egg beat good, *(light)*
2 tablespoons lard
1 cup sweet milk
1 teaspoon soda in milk
2 teaspoons cream tarter in flour
Put through sifter *(little)* salt put in two round tins

May 5, 1898
Camp Black 48th Separate Co.
Long Island
Company D

Dear Family & all

- I am in my tent. Have just had my dinner. I have been on guard duty since 9 o'clock Wednesday morning so I did not have time to write yesterday. We are all well and happy as can be under the circumstances. We don't know how long we will stay here. You must not look for a letter from me every day as my supply may run out. But if any thing turns up of important I will let you know. We are busy the most of the time. It is Company drill in the morning 6:30. Regimental
- (2) drill at 8 o'clock for 2 hours. Battalion at 2:00pm. Every man is obliged to be in his tent at 10 o'clock p.m. Lights out at 11. There are 13 in our tent. I had the first good (*was*) today. Since I left home not one of our men have had a letter from home yet. I guess they are all glad to get rid of us. This place is over run by peddlers. The boys will take a mans rig away from them and run it in camp. Take what they have, unhitch the horse and let it go. I can't think of much to write today. I am to tired and sleepy to think of any thing. I wish you could see us as we are here. It is a sight. There is somewhere about
 - (3) a thousand acres that is covered with tents and is level so we can see from one end to the end. A number of our men run guard last night and are under arrest today. None of Minetto have been in trouble yet. I am the first of Minetto boys to serve as guard. We get lots of papers. Received the Oswego paper today for the first. I promised to write to Jim Mc Laughlin. Tell him when you see him I will do so when I am feeling better than I do today. Write when you can. Let me know if any thing happens. Love to all. Let Charlie read all my letters if he wants to.
 - (4) BL Rider. Write to our folks and give them my address and tell them to write to me but do not look for an answer very soon.

May (11 or 18), 1898

(Due to subject matter, letter was written on Wednesday, the 11th or 18th)

Wednesday morning

Have just been to breakfast all well. I received a letter from Charlie Smith last night. If you get a chance tell him or send word to him that Stofie was rejected and there is no sickness in camp and that we get all we want to eat such as it is. It is not pie, cake and the like but is good solid food, good enough for any poor man to live on. I will write to him soon. Lillie you must not scold Ben. Tell him to be good and I will send him some Spaniard meat. How are the chickens coming on and have you set any more hens? Drill call sounded, good by.

- (2) Kiss Baby for me also your mother and hope for my return. B.L. Rider. Remember the address Company D, 3rd Pro regiment, Camp Black, Long Island.

May 24, 1898

Camp Black

Dear Wife & Children

I have just received your welcome letter and was very glad to hear from you. It found me well and cutting meat for dinner and that is no fun to cut enough for 96 men and suit them all. I have charge of the commissary department for our Company now. I have one man over me and three under me. I am busy the most of the time. We had roast beef, boiled potatoes, coffee, hard tack, onions and cheese, baked beans yesterday. I don't have any more guard duty now and no drilling to do now and I have four to 10 prisoners to keep busy the most of the time. I have none today. Only four arrested last

- (2) night but none from our Company. Yesterday was a very rainy day also last night so there was not many that run the guard. It is a cloudy day today but don't rain. The men here talks a great deal about Dake and the others too. But Dake is the worst. He done so much talking before he came down here. I had a long talk with Major Hall yesterday. He says there has been money raised for the support of the soldiers families and you should have your share. If you need it let me know. We haven't received our pay yet but as soon as I do I will send it to you and then if I need any thing I will let you know. Money is very scarce in camp now. There is lots of beer & whiskey drank here but am happy to say
- (3) I do not care for it nor haven't drank any only once. And that was some hot whiskey one night when I was not feeling well. I think I told you about my being sick but am all right now. I wish you could come and see. It makes me feel home sick to see other peoples friends come to see them but none come to see me but I know the cost would be to great for you to do so. Tell Charlie my letters are to him as much as you wish to tell him. I have but little time to write or I would write to him. I have written to Jim twice. Charlie Smith wrote to me and I answered him and wrote to Father once and told him to send his letters to you and you would send them on to me so we could both get the benefit of them. I don't know
- (4) what to say to you about Lillie taking music lessons. I should like to have her take them right along if we can stand the bill. I think Charlie has done pretty well to get the side hill planted and work so much nights. Have you set out the geraniums yet? And has the flower seed come up & the dahlias? I think Ben must think a great deal of the baby. How I wish I could see her if I am gone two years she will not know me at all. Get one of my pictures I had taken the day I left and show it to her and tell her who it is. I would like one myself but can't afford it. You can get one or more just as you wish. They were taken over

(Up side) (Huinkles) drug store or some where near

(Top of this page upside down) there. I hope Lillie don't cry for me any more. Tell her she must not as there is nothing to cry for yet. I am well and all right but will not know what to do if I should have a chance to sit at a table to eat if I am a soldier for 2 years.

(Above previous writing upside down) I will send you some hard tack some time when I get a box to put it in.

(Continued on side of page) Good by and a kiss. BLR

(Bottom side of first page) Well this sheet is about full and I will have to

(Side of page upside down to top of page) close for this time. Send me a few stamps if you can. Kiss baby & Lillie every night and tell them not to forget their unworthy father or how to go to bed. My bed now is a bundle of straw and an army blanket to cover with. I haven't had my clothes off since I came away from home. I do my own washing and mending. I have to wash my shirt, drawers and socks tomorrow if it clears up so I can.

May (24), 1898

Camp Black, Thursday *(Thursday was the 26th, he marked it as the 24th)*

My Dear Wife & Children

I received a letter from you last night that was written May 4. You must be sure and put the no. of the Regiment on or they are apt to get lost. Our Reg. is No 3. There is a Company D in nearly every Reg. We received orders to go to Dunn Loring, Virginia was to go today but it is raining so hard it has been put over until tomorrow at 2 o'clock. So don't write again until you hear from me again. It rained all night and hard to. Some of the tents are afloat. Ours is all right yet but the water is raising fast.

(2) I am wet to the skin now and have to get out to see about dinner soon.

The boys made a kick this morning because they did not get much of a breakfast. I worked until half past eleven last night packing up stuff to move. Will have to unpack some of it for supper, have enough for dinner out. We had only hard tack and coffee for breakfast. Some of the boys thought they ought to have something extra because it rained. 2 of the cooks or my assistants would not get out and help about the breakfast so I had to get out in the rain and see to it my self and got good and wet but I have a change of clothing when it clears off that are dry. Don't worry about me

(3) for I am all right. I done a small washing yesterday towels, handkerchiefs & c and they are wet yet don't know when they will get dry. There is no starching and ironing here. It is *(was)* get them dry if you can and put them on when you have to. I sent you a small box yesterday in care of Minetto Shade Cloth Company so it would go to Minetto and you would not have to go to Oswego for it. I did not pay Ex. charges because I had no money. You will find hard tack, books and 2 sets of cross guns. Send one set to Elmer. I would have sent them from but could not get anything to pack them in. The books was for Charlie to read and let him keep them if you don't want them. I also sent one to him by mail last night. We have lots of them

(4) and they only get destroyed after they are read so I sent them home. I like to have Jim W. get them if he can to read. Tell him I think of him every day as if he was the only friend I had out side of my family. I think of my wife and children a great many times a day. I would like it very much if I were where I could step in and see them today. I can imagine I see Ethel at the table with her face covered with potatoes and grease. And Lillie by the side of her hiding the potatoes on the inside of her face

and her mother on the other side and Charlie in his place in front of the stove with the cat in the chair

(up side) by his side. Ben on the floor looking for crumbs from Ethel.

(Top of this page upside down) But where is her father? He is in his tent sitting on the straw with the tears running down his cheeks. A writing home and wondering if he will ever see them again but I would give all I ever expect to have than to know I would never see

(Top of first page upside down) them again. Now my Dear, hope and pray for my return which I think will come in time unless sickness prevents for I don't think we will ever go to battle. Forgive me for any thing I have written and good by. Kiss Baby & Lillie for me. Don't let Lillie cry for me

(Top of page three upside down) if you can stop her. I am not worth crying for. Take good care of her & Baby and yourself. Don't work

(Top of page two upside down) to hard if you will go out to work. Make them pay you for what you do. Good by and kisses for all. BLR.

May 29, 1898

Dunn Loring Vermont

3rd Regiment, N.Y. Vol.'s, Company D

Dear Wife & Children

We broke camp yesterday, Saturday at 9 o'clock arrived in Long Island City at 2 o'clock. Took the ferry boat and was transferred to Jersey City where we took the train at 6 o'clock and arrived at Philadelphia at 11:30. Arrived in Washington at 5 o'clock this morning and at Dunn Loring, 9 miles out of Washington and just over the line in Virginia, at 6 o'clock after which we had a 5 mile march in heavy marching order. When we got here we

- (2) were pretty well faged. It is very warm and there is a hard thunder storm raging now and some of the boys are out in it without a rag on. We are in our tents with our guns and the lighting is flashing and the thunder cracking. I am standing up and writing. The water is running right through our tent. We have nothing but the ground to lay on but we have our rubber blankets to put under us. We have regiments from all over the United States. Well I must close for this time. Spell Dunn Loring with two n's.
- (3) I would like to see you all tonight. Kiss the children for me lots of times. Send my address to Charlie Smith & Rob Peasey as they want to write to me. Good night my Dear wife & Children. Write as soon as you can for I am so home sick to see you. I will write again as soon as I can. Took a bath today will have to work tomorrow. Well good by once more my Dears. Kisses for you all. BLRider

May 30, 1898

Dunn Loring VA.

Dear Wife & Children

I wrote a few lines to you last night but as you will see it was under difficulties. It is very warm here today and the men feel the heat very much as it has been so cold and wet where we were. There is soldiers here

from all over the U.S. A Reg. from Missouri landed here today. There is no telling how many men there are here but to give a guess I should say there was 800,000 to 1,000,000 men. The camp covers hundreds of acres but it not level as it was on L.I. and there are lots of woods. The lighting struck a number

- (2) of trees near our camp last night. The men are digging ditches and cutting under brush in the woods making roads, digging a well, sink holes for slop and most everything you could think of. One of our men went to Oswego last Friday to his father's funeral. Said he was going to Minetto. I told him to go and see Charley and he said he would. We are all well in our company except once in a while a head ache. A man in one of the Massachusetts Reg. died this morning. Cause not known. 3 Spanish spies have been captured. One of them escaped and was found hanging by the neck to a tree in the woods this morning. It is also reported that some one from the Michigan Reg. was court marshaled and shot
- (3) this morning at sun rise. I am at my old job but have to do a little more work as one of the men has been taken from our gang. We will have boiled rice for supper. All of our water has to be boiled before we can use it to drink. The next thing is to cool it again after boiling. I have the picture before me as I am writing. It seems as if you were all looking right at me and I think the baby is making a bow to me. Lillie is laughing and you look as if you were going to kiss me. Anyway you all look very pleasant and good to me. Oh how I wish I could see you. News papers are scarce here. Haven't seen one since we landed here so don't know what the war news is but I did hear today that Spain
- (4) was ready to sign articles of peace but don't know anything about it. One can hear lots here. What is Will McCrays address? If you know, write to him and tell him where I am and maybe he will come and see me. It is not far to Washington from here. I don't know whete Ed is. I haven't seen him since morning but is around some where. Well Laura my dear, I am well and as happy as can be under the circumstances. But knowing what I do about soldiers life, I don't think I would volunteer again. Although it is not hard work as far as work goes but it is very unpleasant to be away
- (Up side)* from friends and family. Done my washing this morning
- (Top of last page sideways)* and sleeping out doots on the ground with clothes on and a stone for a pillow or none at all. Well my Dears, I have to see to the supper so will have to close. I had something to say to you this morning but it is gone from me now.
- (Top of first page sideways)* Tell Jim W. my address and tell him to write. Did you get the ex. package and did C get the book? Good by, kiss children for me every night and remember me in your prayers from your unfaithful partner. BLRider
- (Side of third page)* Remember me to Dave tell him I will write sometime
- (Top of page three upside down)* Remember the address Dunn Loring 3 Reg. N.Y. Volunteers Company D
- (Page two across the top upside down)* Remember me to Mr. Edwards, *(Rappalye)* & Burt when you seen them. Don't know where the
- (Top of third page upside down)* music is if it ain't in the drawer.

(Side of second page) Kisses for the children remember me to Mrs. Peavey & family. Also Charlie.

June 4, 1898

Camp Alger, Dunn Loring, Virginia

Dear Wife & Children

I received your letter just before dinner and was glad to hear from you but very sorry you are discouraged. You must not let your feelings get a way from you. Keep cheerful and think of the time when I shall come home which I think will be sometime. Am very sorry to hear that Lillie is sick. Hope she is all right by this time. How I would like to see you all. The babe will not look the same to me as she did when I came away. The last time I saw her was the Sunday I came back. She was asleep in the crib in our bed room. I kissed her no less than a dozens times

(2) and tried to wake her up but she would not by my kissing her. How I wish I had woken her up now. I have your picture where I can look at them while I am writing. They look better to me every time I look at them. I wish you could afford to have them all taken together with Ben in and send them to me but as money is so scarce perhaps you had better not but nothing would do me more good. I am in the same position I was the last time I wrote. Don't worry about my working to hard. I am at work from 4 in the morning until from 7 to 10 at night but my work is not hard labor. It is more head work than anything else but I am busy the most of the time. I think you done just right to go for money. Maj. Hall says the money is there for the aid of the soldiers

(Up the side of letter) family and it is all right that you should get yours.

(Upside down, top of this page) Hear it is reported that one man's family is getting \$7.50 a week and every week. Another man told me himself that his wife had received \$20.00 since he came away.

(Upside down, bottom of this page) I have only one more envelope so don't be scared if you don't hear from me. Wrote to Leon yesterday.

(Top of first page sideways) Why didn't Father want you to send his letter to me? Tell him to write to me and give him the address. Carrie is very kind but do you think it would hold out if you were to go there? I don't know for certain but I think we well get our pay soon. I don't want any money. Will use a little to buy some envelopes & paper. I don't need any thing else.

Some of the boys have every thing that comes along and at the

(Up side) same time I presume their families need the money

(Across top upside down) they are spending.

(Bottom of page upside down) Think I will send another book to Charlie.

June (5 or 6), 1898

(No date on letter, best guess as to subject material)

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 4 pages - first of letter missing)

(3)... *(Marked 3)* for strawberries, cigars, milk, beer & whiskey and lots of other stuff they can get along without. I see by the papers that the boys are bare footed but that is not true. Some of them have poor shoes but if they would spend their money for shoes instead of the luxuries I have named, they would be better off and besides the Government allows them

\$45.00 for the first six months for clothing, shoes & C. And they will go with out such things for the sake of getting the money to blow in. I am going to do the same thing except the blowing in part and I will blow that part to my Dear ones at home who need it more than I

(Up side) need beer or strawberries.

(Top of page) I don't need any clothes as I have more clothes than when I came here. The boys wear a shirt for a couple of weeks until it gets dirty and then they will throw it away rather than wash it. I have my new blue shirts packed away in my pack and I have 2 that I wear every day, one gray and one blue both are wool and not a

(4) hole in them now. One of them had a small hole in the elbow but I put a patch on so it is all right. I also have a new fine shirt that has only been worn 4 days and 2 good woolen wrappers. One of them has a small tear on the shoulder but they are hardly worn at all. All are washed and in my pack but it is to big a load to carry very far. If we are called out on a long march, I shall have to throw them away but if we go to Fort Meyer as the talk is we will. I shall try to carry them with me. I also have 5 pairs of woolen stockings all mended and ready to put on. I shall have to get some yarn to darn with before long. I have a woolen sock that I think I can ravel out to mend with and save buying yarn. There is a barrel going from here to the armory and there is a bundle of hard tack in it for you. Tell Charles Perry to get it for you

(Up side) when he goes down to drill.

(5) Either S. M. Tift or *(O donel)* will have it. The man who went home to his fathers funeral came back last night. It is very warm here, 125 in the sun and 108 in the shade yesterday at noon. Our Regiment is to have 64 mules and 16 Army wagons. A team of mules is 4 mules. And each Company is to have a team and one wagon. Uncle Sam has 12,000 mules and a wagon to every team of 4 mules stationed at Dunn Loring. Dr. Jones is very kind not to charge for the medicine. Laura Dear, when you get the money from me get yourself some new shoes yourself a new hat & dress and

(Up side) trust in the Lord for the rest

(Top of page upside down) and I think we will come out all right. I will send the money as soon as I can get it. Tell Charlie not to work to hard. I am glad to hear he is so kind to you and takes such an interest in things. It does not seem possible that my little baby is walking instead of pushing herself around with one foot.

(6) Don't let Lottie have the tools if it is a going to make Charlie mad. For what would you do if he was not there? I received a letter from Jim last tuesday and answered the same day. I am so glad to hear from home that I answer as soon as possible after receiving them. You done all right in asking for help. Get all you can. Major hall says it is there for you and you should have it. If you don't get it without asking, ask for it and don't let it go because I send you what I get. As all I send you is what I call love money and not wages. Never mind your conscience. Major Hall says it is yours and no one elses. Tell Lillie to write and tell me all about the cow, chickens, pigs, dog and every thing and every body. Don't send any money could not

(Up side) use it if you did as long as you need shoes and C so bad.

(Top of page upside down) Well I shall have to close and see about the supper.

Write as often as possible and good cheerful letters. Something that will make me happy enough to cry for joy rather than

(Above the last) for sorrow. Kiss the children for me and

(Right side up) pray for health and a safe return to my loved ones at home. Your lovingly, B.L.R.

June (6), 1898 (Tuesday was the 7th, he marked it as the 6th)
Dunn Loring (7 sheets, 14 pages)

Dear Wife & Children, Charlie & Mr. & Mrs. Kosboth

Tuesday afternoon 2:pm finds me well and my work so I can leave it for a while so will talk with you for a while. We are getting a little short on our rations and I have to figure pretty close to make them hold out. We have two more days yet before we get any more and all I have left is one side of bacon, about 50 loaves of bread & 450 lbs. of hard tack, 10 lbs. coffee. We have no potatoes, rice or canned good of any kind. We received a cheese from Oswego Saturday night. I am afraid

- (2) we will go hungry before we get an other issue. We get fresh beef every three days. We got some today and have it all on the fire a roasting now and have to keep running and looking at it to see that it don't burn. It is quite a job to cook for 94 men. We have 3 bbls. of flour but it is of no use to us as we can only make flour gravy out of it. We don't have sour milk, butter and the like to make biscuits. We have baking powder but none of us knows how to use it. We have to bring our water about 2 miles in pails and boilers but there is a steam drill just come into our camp this afternoon so I think we will have water now soon. We dug a well and got water but is pumped dry the most of the time. Some one
- (3) is at it all the time. It is about 15 feet deep and has about 10 feet of water in it every morning but it don't last long when they all go for it to get breakfast. We have plenty of water to wash in. There is a creek about 200 feet from our tent but there is some one in it from 6 o'clock in the morning until 9 at night. Arthur Owens has been sick and was in the hospital but came home this morning but is not very well yet. Says he would die if he stayed their long. Says it is the worst place he ever saw to put a sick person. They preformed an operation on a man there sunday and the man never moved and was dead in 5 minutes after they commenced on him. One of our men are there now sick with malaria fever. Owens says a well man can go there and he will be sick inside of 24 hours. The men
- (4) don't get anything to eat in the first place and then there are so many there. And the weather is so warm that there is an awful stink there all the time and the nurses will wash a dozen men out of the same dish and the same water. Owens said that a man from the 2nd Reg. of Michigan caught some disease in his eyes and is stone blind and will be the remainder of his days. I sent a letter to *U.S.C. co* Band this morning. The officers of our Regiment are talking of organizing a band out of members of the Regiment. Major Hall sent for me last night he wants me to go in

- the band but has said so many times I would never get in another band if I ever got out of this one. I don't know
- (5) what I shall do about it. He says I will have a much easier time and will get out of my present trouble cooking. Will not have to do any thing only tend to practice and play at concerts and dress parade, guard (*mount*) and inspections. The latter comes about once in ten days or 2 weeks but will not occur on Sunday any more. The officers got a calling from the war department for making the men get out for inspection & dress parade on Sunday. I haven't known what Sunday was since I left home when we were at Camp Black. It rained every Sunday and a week ago last Sunday we arrived here in camp and worked all day to get our tents pitched and a place to sleep. We have to sleep on the ground with nothing but a rubber blanket under us
- (6) and only an army blanket over us. It is quite cool here nights but we don't suffer any from the cold as it is so warm in the day that it takes a good share of the night to cool us off. It is very nice here in the evening. Can hear the whippoorwills and the nightingales sing all night, if we are (*around*) to listen to them. There is a splendid moon now. It is almost as light as day here. The stillness of the evening is disturbed by the bray of a jack mule once in a while. We have 44 of them in our camp. One of the guard heard one of them about midnight and he was so scared that he left his post and ran for the officers tent. The officers gave him a calling down for leaving his post
- (7) and sent him back at once and told him not to let it happen again. Well Charlie I have quite a lot of good winter under clothing that I have got from the boys of our company. Which is as burden to me but could not see it go to waste, which I will send you if you want it bad enough to pay the charges on it. I have no money or I would send it and pay the charges myself for what you are doing for my Dear ones at home. It is all clean and all right, no disease or any thing of the kind about it. I have now 2 pairs of drawers, 3 good wrappers, 4 or 5 shirts, I have one fine shirt, 2 light black ones. And one heavy blue army woolen shirt one of our men was going to throw it away because it was dirty and he would not wash it. I have washed all of them out but probably Laura could do a better job on them for you. Now if you don't want them say so and I will fire them away as I can't
- (8) move them if we have to move as it is too much to carry. Could not get them in my pack. Any way if you don't want them and you know of any one who does for paying charges, tell Laura to let me know and I will send them at once. Now Lillie my Dear, how are you getting along? You were sick the last I heard from home. Hope this is not the case now. I think of you all every day even Ben & the cow, chickens & pigs. The little chickens must be fine ones by this time. Save the white ones I got from Bill and see if you can't have a nice flock of pure white leg horns when I get home. Which I think will be some time in the course of a year by the way things look and what I hear around here now. I think or imagine I can see you running around the yard playing with your
- (9) little sister and Ben. Ask Ben if he remembers me and tell him I would like his photograph. And write to Miss Crouch and tell her that I would

like to hear from her if your mother does not object. And, if she knew how lonesome I get some times to hear from someone I don't think she would care. Now you must be sure and write to me every time mother does. It does me lots of good to hear from you as well as from your mother. Do you ever go up to Jim's? Remember me to James Mc Laughlin & Fred Moodry when you see them, also Mr. Edwards folks and Leroy Burts folks and all the rest. Do you ever see Dave or hear from them? I suppose the garden is all up in good shape by this time. Did the tomatoes & cabbage plants amount to any thing? And did you sell all of them? Did the flower seeds in the boat come up? Are there any peaches? And did the berry bushes up on the hill that I put out last fall live?

- (10) Mrs. Kosboth, I think I could beat you a game of croquet if you will come down here. I will try you a game. I think I have just about time before supper time. Have you your new wheel or is your wheels where mine were when I joined the 48 separate company N.Y.V.I. in my head. Remember me to Frank D. when you see him. I saw him in Oswego the night we left. I suppose Mr. K. is working every day. Now Ethel, you little Dear, a word to you and I must close. Be a good girl and mind your Ma. How I wish I could see you. I imagine I see you a great many times but suppose you don't look the same you did the last time I saw you. You was a sleep and I wanted to wake you up but you were taking too much comfort to do that. If I could kiss your little fat
- (11) cheek once it would such a pleasure to me but such is the life of a Soldier. I will have to go were Uncle Sam sends me until he gets through with me and by that time you will not be the same little lump you was laying in your crib the day I left. If I was where I could get my hands on you now, I don't think you would sleep long. Well my Dear, you seem to come last on this sheet but you are not the least by any means. I am sorry to say I have no money for you yet but I hear that the men are being paid off as fast as they can get around to them. Of course we will be on the rear end like a dog's tail but you will get every cent of it when I get it unless I keep a few shillings to buy writing material with. The 6 stamps you sent me was stolen out of my pack before I had them an hour. I reported it
- (12) to the Captain and he said when I got any more to bring them to him and he would lock them up for me. He has a trunk to put his stuff in. I would ask you to send me stamped envelopes if it was not for the cost of sending them. I mean envelope with the stamps stuck on for they get stuck some times and we have to throw them away and if the stamp is stuck on I can steam it and get it off. Well my Dear, I must close and go and see about the supper. Hoping to hear from you often and a good long letter. How I wish I could step in and surprise you to night and surprise you I would for I am getting fat and black. If we stay here 2 years I don't know but I will be a nig. Kiss the children for me and remember me to all
(Top of page 12 upside down) and take care of your self. Go to CL if you wish. What will you do with Charlie? Well, good by, kisses for you all, yours lovingly, BLR
- (13) Dear Wife we have had our supper and this is the nicest time of the day. We have our dishes all washed and work all done up for the night. For breakfast we will only have hard tack, bacon and coffee with out sugar or

milk. We have had no milk for a long time but coffee is very good if it has sugar. The Regiment is out on dress parade and it is very quiet in the different streets. The Regiment has just received a new flag and one of the Companies has gone to head quarters after it. There will be a great yell when it comes in. Everyone is stretching their necks to see it come. It was presented by some organization and is made of silk and trimmed with gold colored silk. Here come the colors and there is a great () now all through the Regiment. The men are all like brothers every one seems to want to do all

- (14) be can for his neighbor. Our tent is called the staff now as we have the cooks wagons, quarter master, musicians and have 17 in all. Lillie you remember the pictures in the home Journal don't you? Well we have a Captain of one of the companies that look just like one of them. He is short, fat, black and has a big belly and walks something like a duck goes one side at a time. Well my Dears, I guess I have written enough for this time so will close. Did Charlie get the last books I sent him? Now be good children and write to your old Soldier dad as often as you can. Kiss baby again and again for me. I hear there is an excursion from Oswego here next Friday. How I wish you could come Laura. Can't you send Lillie

(Top of this page upside down) down by some of Walters friends? If you get this in time let her come if you can find some one to bring her but don't

(Side of page) trust her without you know she is coming with. Good night write soon. BLR

June 9, 1898

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 4 pages)

Dear wife & family

When I say family I mean Charlie with the rest of you. I sent you a letter yesterday morning telling you I had sent you \$15.00 that was my pay from the Government. I sent the money by Sergeant Dunn. If you haven't it yet, you will get it soon. He was all ready to go when the First Sergeant came to me and put another five Dollar Gold piece in my hand and told me it was a present from the Company for doing the best I could for the boys. And I could not keep the tears back for think that they thought as much of me and the good it would do my Dear ones at home. Now use it for the things that you all need so bad. Am sorry I did not send you the other 60 cents as I made 50 cents yesterday washing clothes for 2 of the men and think I can make money enough to get what I need in that way and perhaps a little more. Will send it to you as fast as I get a Dollar if I can. I spent 5 cts for strawberries 3 quarts & .10 for tobacco yesterday. Now use this money for yourselves and for something

- (2) that you need to wear especially the \$5.00. Yesterday was a hard day for me. One of the men working for me was laid out and the other was not feeling well so I had nearly all the work to do beside I had some extra to do. The boys bring things to me to keep for them such as Berries, milk, cherries and butter to keep cool for them. So yesterday I dug a hole in the ground 4 feet long 2 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Made a box to fit in it

with shelves in and put their stuff in it so it will keep until they call for it. It is an awful bother for they want their stuff just when I am the busiest at meal time. And last night I told them to help themselves and some of them took their own and some of the others. And then I was blamed for it. So I will have to tend to it my self or take the blame. Captain Tift told me this morning if there was any more stuff taken out that did not belong to the one who took it to fill the hole up and let them take care of their own stuff. He also said some of them did not know when one was doing them a favor. The inspectors said yesterday morning that our kitchen was the best arranged and cleanest one in the Regiment. He comes around every morning and we have to hustle and get the dishes washed and swept up before he comes.

- (3) Some of the boys go to Washington every day but I will not go as it costs money and we need every cent now. Some of the men who got their pay night before last went to bed with out a cent last night. They were playing Poker all day yesterday and lost every cent they had. One young fellow from Company C lost all he had in about an hour and went away crying after his last cent was gone. The man who got the most of it gave him back \$2.00 and he sat down and went to playing again this morning as soon as he swallowed his breakfast. Don't know how he come out. Another man in our Company was given \$10.00 by the boys because he had a wife and 6 or 7 children at home. He also went to playing poker and lost over \$8.00. The boys say they will give him no more but will send it to his family. But they will not send any money for me because I don't know how to use it when I have it for I shall send it to my Dear ones at home before I have a chance to get rid of it. And I want you to use it for yourselves and not feel that I
- (4) need it for I don't. I get enough to eat and I have more clothes than I know what to do with. If I had thought of them before I sent all my money I guess I should have sent a box of stuff home to you consisting of wrappers & drawers & shirts. I had a small package rolled up to send by Dunn but he had so much to catty that I did not ask him to take them. Now while I think of it, the money was one \$10 bill and 2 \$5.00 Gold pieces, did you get the gold? Who do you think I received a letter from yesterday? Don't think you could guess. Well it was Mrs. Peavey. She said she hoped you would not get mad at her for it as she had been thinking of it for some time. I will write to her today if I can get time. I don't know whether I told you I received a letter from Elmer or not. He said that they sent me a box May 27 but I haven't received it yet. He sent it to Camp Black. Well my Dears, I shall have to close and get to work for it is time I had the dinner a going. Will have baked beans today. Had hash for breakfast. How I wish I could get breakfast at home some morning and see my little angel with her face & hair full of potatoes. Are you sorry that I got Ben now as he look out for the Baby so much? Well Lillie, I hope you can get what you want for childrens day now. How I wish I could see you

(Top of page upside down) at the childrens day exercise. Now Laura use the money and don't worry about me. Ask Charlie if he wants me to send him a little book there are lots of them here. Good by and lots of kisses

(Along right side) for you all. Burton

June 9, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Laura and Children

I sent a letter to you this morning but there has been nearly 12 hours since then so will give you another talk tonight as I have been busy the most of the day. I have something to show for it. I have done quite a lot of washing today and have enough money to get Lillie a sash as she said she wanted one for childrens day. Now I want you to get one for her as it is the only thing I can do for her. I have one dollar that I got for washing for the men today and there is 30 cents my due yet. How is that besides doing my work and have 3 more washings for tomorrow. I have quite a lot of wrappers & drawers, shirts & towels I will send home the first chance I get. Charlie can have them if you want to give them to him or you can keep them until I come home which I think will surely be some time before long at least I hope so as I am sick of cooking. I don't wonder you get so tired sometimes

(2) of cooking and washing dishes for I sometimes think I don't want to ever see any thing to eat. We got 80 lbs. of fresh beef and had to cook it for dinner. It took me about three quarters of an hour to fry steak for dinner. We had steak, boiled potatoes, bread & coffee for dinner and for supper we had tomatoes cooked, bread and cheese & coffee and for breakfast we will have boiled potatoes, boiled rice & bread & coffee. Monday I have 2 pair of pants to wash and press which I shall get 50 cents a pair and I will send it to you as soon as I get it. Enclosed you will find \$1.00 all earned today and I told you what to do with it and please do as I wish you to with this and you can do as you like with the next one. Thank you Lillie for your letter. It does lots of go for me to get them from my Dear daughter. How I would like to see you. Don't you think the babe could write a few lines to? And Ben I know could if you would put some mud on his feet and a sheet of paper where he could step on it. Try it and see. Well my Dears it is so dark I can hardly see so I will close. Laura kiss the children for me and Lillie & Ethel you kiss your mother for me and I sent lots of them to you all. I will send this without stamp because it is

(Upside down and top of page) hard work to get them and they stick together so some of them get wasted and I know you are willing to give 2 cents to hear from me once in a while. I wrote to Mrs. P. today good night all.

BLR

(Along side) Remember me to Mr. & Mrs. Kalso, Mrs. *(Boungler)* & Bud & wife.

June 15, 1898

Camp Alger

My Dear Wife & Children

I have just finished my work and will talk with you a few minutes although I am very tired tonight. I have been washing all day except when I was getting my meals for the men. I have been alone today. The company was

all out on provo guard except the sick ones and that was 24 men. There is but very few that have not been sick. I am one of the few. I have not had a sick minute except a cold since I left home and allowing me to be the judge I do more work than any one man. I have done the cooking a number of days and tending to my work beside the other cooks have been sick and I could not get any detail to help me as there was so many sick and they had to have the well ones to drill. So I have to go it alone but I begin to think I can stand most anything now. I am as black as a nig but there are others. Well I guess I have growled enough. I will write something else on the other side.

- (2) I sent you some money awhile ago but have heard nothing from it yet and I am anxious to hear from you as well as from the money. I sent you a \$10.00 bill and 2 \$5.00 gold pieces by Sergeant Dunn. And the next day I sent you a one Dollar bill in a letter and I have \$4.00 more in money and there is \$1.45 owing to me and I have let Eddie have a dollar. I will send you what I have as soon as I hear you got the other. And would like to send it as soon as possible for I know you need all you can get and I don't want to keep it here for fear I will loose it. And I have to work to hard for it to loose any. I have spent 30 cents, 20 for milk and 10 for tobacco but will be careful not to spend any more for luxuries as I know you need it worse than I need milk. Well my dear ones I will close for this time as I am to tired to write and I have 4 washings to do tomorrow. I sent you a box this morning by freight so you will not get it for a number of days. I did not pay the freight as I did not go to the depot myself. I have lots to say to you but will wait until next time. Maybe I will get time tomorrow afternoon and then I will write to Lillie & the other little angel. Does Lillie feel any different

(Side and top of page upside down) than she did about my coming away? Received a letter from Jim W. yesterday. Tell Charlie I made a mistake about his sending the stamps and to please excuse me it was

(Top of first page sideways) from Carrie also a box of papers. You told me that C. sent me some and I thought it was his box that had the stamps in as I received them both the same day but have read a letter from her since. Well good night. Kiss baby for me and Lillie also and keep one for yourself. Yours lovingly. Burton, good night.

June 15, 1898

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 8 pages)

Dear Wife & Children

I sent you a letter this morning inquiring about the money. If you had received it yet and it had not left the office before I received your & Lillies letter saying you had the dollar. And this P.M., I rec'd one from Charlie saying Dunn had delivered the other \$20.00 that will help you out a little and I will send you \$3.00 in this letter which you can get some shoes for

- (2) Lillie and pay the music lessons too. I think the Lord is on your side and mine too as he gives me good health and lots of work to earn money for my Dear ones at home. I earned 80 cents today since dinner. I did not

- get a chance to do anything before dinner after writing to you. I have some for tomortow but not much but I think it will come in in the morning. I did not get any money today but I have their stuff here yet I get lots of work from other companies. I got some ammonia and a sponge
- (3) to take grease out of pants with. Today I sent to Washington for it by one of our boys. It cost me .25 cents. So you see I have beat you out of that more but I can do a better job and may be will get enough more work to more than pay for it. Don't know whether I told you how much I get for cleaning pants or not but will tell you again. 40 cents for pants and 20 for blouses and can clean a suit in about an hour and a half. The men are willing to pay it and are satisfied with my work but it is quite a job to
- (4) the white stripes. I put them on a board take a scrub brush and go at them like an old Irish woman scrubbing a floor. Now my Dear don't worry about my working so hard as it is a pleasure for me to do it for you & my Dear children. I only wish I could send you more and do more for you and children. If I hadn't let Ed have any I could send you a five dollar Bill and if the men get their stuff in the morning before 9 o'clock
(Top of this page sideways and across other facing page) may be I will have it any way. I just wish Lillie you could come and see me. I wouldn't do a thing to you or your little angel sister either and your mother to, but I don't see any way that you can do it. It makes me home sick to see the other boys fathers, mothers, sisters & brothers and friends come and see them but no one comes to see me. I suppose it is because they are like us to poor to spend their money on the Rail Road.
- (5) Laura did I tell you to save the old letters? If I did not, please do so as I may come home some time and if I do I want to see them. I rec'd a letter from Leon today. They are all well. He says he would like to be with me if he did not have so much to do. Lillie, Bens letter was all right. I think he done well for the first time and think the baby has grown a lot since I came away by the size of her little foot and hand. Did you get the
- (6) writing paper I sent you? If you have, give Charlie a part of it, there is a man coming in the morning with some much nicer than that. If I see him I will send it and you must share with him as I think he is very kind to you all and you must be good to him. Tell him not to work to hard and make himself sick. Am glad you are going to Cedar Lake this summer. Hope you will have a good time. Will you take Ben with you? If you don't what will he do without the babe. We have a tame
- (7) Rat here and he is running all over me and my papers while I am writing. He is black and white but mostly white. Everyone thinks every thing of him. He runs all around my tent. Don't shut him up at all. One of the boys took him 3 streets away last night and let him go and he come right back with out stopping. He has a hole dug under the chest and he stays there the most of the time in the day but is all over at night and early in the morning. Well I will have a hard day tomorrow as we just got
- (8) word that 10 days rations would be issued tomorrow and that means lots of work for me. For you know it takes a lot of stuff to feed 84 men 10 days. Well my Dears, I will have to close. Will send Charlie another book in the morning with this. Does he have to pay any more postage on them? Well Kisses for you all. Good night. Let me hear as soon as you get this

if it is only a word so I won't think it is gone to someone else. Good night

(Up side) and God Bless and keep you

(Top of page upside down) until I come home and pray that I may return soon from your loving husband & father. BLR Be sure and put Co. D on when you address your letters.

(Top of page one sideways) Lillie, you done well this time do so some more and tell me all the news.

June 16, 1898 *(no date on letter but best guess as to subject material)*
(2 sheets, 4 pages)

Thursday Morning. Good morning all. It is a poor day for drying clothes so will adjourn and talk with you a while and wash later if it clears up. And if not, I will put it over until tomorrow although I can't think of as much as I could last night but will write something. Carrie sent me a box by mail with fried cakes and cookies in it but they were pretty well broken up but they were good and every crumb eaten. Don't send anything that will spoil if you send any thing at all. Mrs. Peavey said she was going to send a box to Ed so if you want to put anything in put some fried cakes, lemons and a package of tea but don't send them because I name them. You had better use the money for your own use as I am getting used to army grub and don't know what good grub is that has no ashes or dirt in it. We get a lot of such stuff here. I have not been out of camp since we came here. Most all the men have been

- (2) to Washington but I have not. But guess I would if I could find Will McCray so I could get my *(dinner)* out of him. It only costs 46 cents for the round trip from here for a Soldier. Does Albert Goodier live there now? We have plenty of water now and good water too. There are 3 drilled wells in our Regiment now and none of them is less than 60 feet deep and one of them is 190. One of our men has gone to Oswego to his mothers funeral. Peters is his name. We have 41 prisoners in our Reg. The most of them are under arrest for being drunk but the money is getting scarce and there won't be so many drunk then. Some one stole my coat yesterday and it will go hard with him when it is found. The Captain is looking for it and says he will surely get it. Eddie has just got another dollar of me only night before last I let him have a dollar and now another. Suppose I spent my money like that what would you say? I have 2 bundles of clothes by my side that has come since I began to write and guess I had better stop writing and get at them. Well Lillie, I am glad you got your sash for childrens day.
- (3) Did you have a good time? Did Ethel go? I suppose she had to speak a piece, didn't she? I wrote a letter to the band some time ago but haven't heard from any of them. I suppose they think I am only a soldier and am not worth writing to. Now Lillie, you must be a good girl and tell your mother to get you a wheel and I will try to earn money enough washing to pay for it. Don't think you will have to work and earn it yourself as long as I can work and earn it for you. If she can get one and pay \$5.00 a month I will pay the five dollars as long as I can get washings to do. I

suppose the baby is into everything now running away and pulling the flowers up and everything else mischievous. You don't know how I would like to see you all. Does the baby eat potatoes with her hands yet and put it in her hair? Well the sun is coming out and I will close and go to washing. Remember me to all

- (4) and be a good girl and help your mother all you can. I sent a bowl in the box for baby, a button for you and books for Charlie. Laura, please save the old letters I sent in the box. I wonder why Father don't write to me. Lillie you write to him and tell him to write. Send my address. Well good by and lots of Kisses for you all. Laura you can do as you like with the clothes. Give them to Charlie or keep them just as you like. Some of them are not washed very clean, as I did not have time. It would be a good plan to wash all of them when you get time. Well good by again with lots of love to you & Children. Would write more but have to go to work. Remember me to all. BLR

June 17, 1898 *(No date on letter but subject material states June 17th)*

Friday night and your letter not gone yet but it will be worth more to you when it does come. I add a little to it every day. I hear we are to get some more money soon. I hope we do for your sake. Money is of no use to me or not much. I said last night that I would not spend any more but I have spent 10 cents again today. I haven't had much work today but have had some. This is a great night down here. It is

- (2) what they call Bunker Hill day and the Southern Regiments are celebrating in great shape. We can see fireworks and hear cannons all around. It is like the 4th of July only there is fire works in every direction, bands playing and men shouting and hollering. It was on this day of the month, the 17, that the battle of Bunker Hill was fought and it is only 2 miles from our Regiment and in side the camp. The camp is 7 miles square. The old Halifax Residence is in sight of us is only about 1/2 a
- (3) mile away. Lots of the boys has pieces of bricks, wood, stone and nails out of the ruins. I have not been over there yet but think I will go sunday if I can get away from my work. Sunday is no different than any other day to the Squaw gang as the cooks are called. There is services here every Sunday morning, evening & Thursday night, but I don't get my work done in time to go much. Have been to the Thursday evening services 2 but they were nearly out
- (4) when I got there. The last time I went I could not help shedding tears to hear some of the men talk. I am so wicked I don't as there is any hope for me. It makes me shudder to hear some of the men talk. They can't say a word with out adding an oath too. Well my Dear, I am crying and it is about time for taps so I guess I had better close for tonight. Don't let Lillie know about my crying.

(Side of letter) Good night and pray for me

(Top of page upside down) that I may be a better man and do my duty to our master & country. Kiss the angel children for me and I would do the same to you if I could.

June 23, 1898

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 8 pages)

Dear Wife & Family

- I received your welcome letter this P.M. and you don't know how much good it done me to think the money arrived all right and just in time to get my Dear little girl some shoes. I sent you some more this morning. Hope you have it by the time you get this. I have been very busy today. The Regiment went on a long march this morning and I had to work until
- (2) eleven o'clock last night and was up and at it again at 2:30 this morning. I am a lone again and had 13 men to cook for. Had my dinner all ready and about 10 minutes before mess call in came Dunn with 27 men. And I had it all to do over again so I had to cook my brains for another hour over a hot fire frying bacon or what the men call sow belly and about 90 degree of hot sun on my back. It is very warm here in the day time and cold nights. Well my Dear, I fooled away some money
- (3) today. I bought a little present for you and Lillie and a man is going to bring one for Ethel in the morning. There are lots of things a man can spend his money for but when I see them I think which will do you the most good and say to myself the money will and go on about my work. I saw a badge today I would like to get Charlie but the price was to high. They will be cheaper in a few days and then may be I will get one for him. I want to send him something.
- (4) I think I will go to Washington Sunday if I can get away as I won't have any washing to do that day. If I can find Will, it won't cost me much as I can get my dinner there. I wish I had some of your fried cakes here. I wouldn't do a thing to about a dozen of them. I also could eat some of those berries if I were there. Strawberries are out of season here. We can get black & red raspberries also long black berries at 5 cts a qt.
- (Top of first page upside down) Has the box come yet? No.
- (5) Well we had a nice shower here tonight and about 200 men were out in it without a rag on them. I was one and I feel good now. Put on some clean clothes and shaved and am clean and healthy tonight. And the only thing lacking to make me happy is to be where I could see my Dear Wife & Children. I sent Lillie a package this morning. Hope she received it all right. I have another little present for her.
- (6) I am spending lots of money lately. Guess I will have to stop it so as to send more for my dear ones at home to enjoy. But have patience, it is getting near pay day again and then you will have some more to help you out a little. Can you keep track of what I send you? If you can, I wish you would so I can see if I make as much as I would at the factory. Oh I wish you could come and call on me but the poor can't ride in shyness as the rich do. When do you go to the lake?
- (7) Well Lillie, how are you for money? Have you got any? If you haven't let me know and I will send you some. If Mama hasn't any for you to go to festivals with, I will send you some for your self. But you must remember that you are a poor mans daughter and don't spend to much but I will do the best I can for you so you can have some of the pleasures of this life.

But you must be a good girl and obey your heavenly Father so you can enjoy as much of the next life as the rich

- (8) do. Well Lillie, I guess I have lectured you enough so I will stop it and I guess I will stop writing for this time as it is bed time. Write to me often and I will try and answer them. Take good care of Ethel & Ben. Kiss baby for me and your mother too. Well good night all. Let me hear from you as soon as you get this, as I shall be anxious to know if you get the money. Lots of Kisses to you all. Remember me to all. I will

(Up side) write to Charlie certain next week.

(Upside down) Good night and good luck to you. Burton L. Rider

June 25, 1898

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 8 pages)

Dear Wife & Family

I am nearly tired out but I feel it my duty and a pleasure to write to you tonight and send you a little of the fruits of my labor which is also a pleasure. Enclosed find \$4.00 for you to use as you think best. I wrote you that our Regiment was out on a long march. Well they came back today about 10 o'clock all dirt and tired out and I had to

- (2) get dinner for them all alone but I knew they were coming so I was ready for them. There was 112 for dinner today. We had baked pork & beans, potatoes, coffee & bread. This morning we had ham & eggs, coffee, bacon & bread. Yesterday we had boiled cabbage, pork & potatoes, coffee & bread. I had 112 loaves of bread issued today about 11 o'clock tonight I have only 8 loaves left, so I may imagine that the men eat a little. The other 2 cooks has not done a thing since they come back only
- (3) lay in the shade and play poker and I done their work. So I haven't earned a cent of extra money today for you. I come near flunking today. Just after dinner, the heat was terrible and I was over the fire getting the beef ready to roast. Have cooked 119 lbs. of beef this afternoon. Will cut it up cold for breakfast and fry some potatoes. This morning I was up and had breakfast all ready at reveille and no one to help me. But the men that were out on the
- (4) march think I had a snap but I tell you I was on the snap the most of the time. But it was my duty and I will do that as long as I can stand up. I asked for a pass to Washington today. Think I will go about Tuesday if I can earn money enough to take me there before that time and I think I can but I feel that I am robing you and my little ones of that amount. I done a washing for Mrs.

(Up side and upside down on top and across to next page) Clancy yesterday had 4 pillowcases, 12 handkerchiefs, 1 night shirt, 2 sheets, 5 towels and 2 pairs of pants split in the crotch, but they were not mens pants. It is the dry goods merchants wife from Oswego. She has a son in the company. I do Captain Tifts, Lieutenant Potbery & McDonalds and Sergeant Vickers washing and get good pay for it too.

- (5) Sunday night and your letter here yet but will not fail to send it in the morning. I have been made a fool of again today. One of the cooks went to Washington and the other has played poker the most of the day and I

June 23, 1898

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 8 pages)

Dear Wife & Family

- I received your welcome letter this P.M. and you don't know how much good it done me to think the money arrived all right and just in time to get my Dear little girl some shoes. I sent you some more this morning. Hope you have it by the time you get this. I have been very busy today. The Regiment went on a long march this morning and I had to work until
- (2) eleven o'clock last night and was up and at it again at 2:30 this morning. I am a lone again and had 13 men to cook for. Had my dinner all ready and about 10 minutes before mess call in came Dunn with 27 men. And I had it all to do over again so I had to cook my brains for another hour over a hot fire frying bacon or what the men call sow belly and about 90 degree of hot sun on my back. It is very warm here in the day time and cold nights. Well my Dear, I fooled away some money
- (3) today. I bought a little present for you and Lillie and a man is going to bring one for Ethel in the morning. There are lots of things a man can spend his money for but when I see them I think which will do you the most good and say to myself the money will and go on about my work. I saw a badge today I would like to get Charlie but the price was to high. They will be cheaper in a few days and then may be I will get one for him. I want to send him something.
- (4) I think I will go to Washington Sunday if I can get away as I won't have any washing to do that day. If I can find Will, it won't cost me much as I can get my dinner there. I wish I had some of your fried cakes here. I wouldn't do a thing to about a dozen of them. I also could eat some of those berries if I were there. Strawberries are out of season here. We can get black & red raspberries also long black berries at 5 cts a qt.
- (Top of first page upside down) Has the box come yet? No.
- (5) Well we had a nice shower here tonight and about 200 men were out in it without a rag on them. I was one and I feel good now. Put on some clean clothes and shaved and am clean and healthy tonight. And the only thing lacking to make me happy is to be where I could see my Dear Wife & Children. I sent Lillie a package this morning. Hope she received it all right. I have another little present for her.
- (6) I am spending lots of money lately. Guess I will have to stop it so as to send more for my dear ones at home to enjoy. But have patience, it is getting near pay day again and then you will have some more to help you out a little. Can you keep track of what I send you? If you can, I wish you would so I can see if I make as much as I would at the factory. Oh I wish you could come and call on me but the poor can't ride in shyness as the rich do. When do you go to the lake?
- (7) Well Lillie, how are you for money? Have you got any? If you haven't let me know and I will send you some. If Mama hasn't any for you to go to festivals with, I will send you some for your self. But you must remember that you are a poor mans daughter and don't spend to much but I will do the best I can for you so you can have some of the pleasures of this life.

done the work so I haven't had much time to myself. I think I will go to Washington Tuesday if it don't rain. Will find Will if I can.

- (6) Have had the promise of another Dollar in the morning. Don't know as I will get it but hope I will. Well I can't write much to night I am to homesick. I wish I could step in and see you all for a few minutes at least to night but it is out of the question. I am a long way from you. It has been terrible hot here today. I suppose the babe suffers from the heat these hot days. Well I can't think of any thing to write so I will close good night.
- (7) Answer this as soon as you get it if it is only a postal card and let me know if you get the money. I begin to think you don't get all of my letters that has money in them. I guess I will have to wait until I get enough so it will pay to get a money order. Lillie, I guess you had better give up the wheel until I come home and by the way things look in the paper the Spaniards will be cleared out pretty soon
- (8) and I think we will come home soon after that. Good by my Dears and be sure and write. I haven't had a letter from any one since last Tuesday. Kiss babe for me. Remember me to all. B.L.R. Wednesday morning. Dear Family I went to Washington yesterday. Will write about it when I have more time. B.L.R. Didn't find Will.

(July 2, 1898) (No date on letter but best guess due to subject material)

Saturday night and your letter not gone yet but will surely send it in the morning. I am well yet and as busy as ever. I have worked this afternoon but this morning we had to turn out for inspection and didn't get time to do much. Eddie come to me for more money tonight. He wanted \$2.00 tonight. That makes \$4.00 dollars he owes me now and I have \$4.00 in my pocket, which I will send you

- (2) in this letter making \$9.00 I have made and got. And there is \$2.30 owing to me making \$11.30 if I get it, since I sent you the \$20.00 and I expect to get \$12.42 from the State now soon. My Dear it is a pleasure to me to send my money home to you and my children. I think we will pay our debts if I can get the work right along as I am now. I have to turn lots of work away as I can't wash for the whole Regiment and cook to but will do
- (3) all I can. 2 of the companys received recruits today about 25 men each and the report is that we will have ours next week. Every company is to be recruited to 106 men. That means more work for the cooks. Did Lillie get the paper I sent her? I have some more envelopes, which I will send with Charlies book for her and she must give Charlie some of them. Do I put stamps enough on the books I send to him? If not, let me know as I can get all the stamps I want now. Don't
- (4) send me any more until I ask for them as it is hard to keep them here for they get stuck together and there is a place to buy them here now and I have lots of money now. Well, I will close and go to bed as I am sleepy and tired. More Kisses to the children & yourself. Good night and write as often as you can. I feel better than I did last night. Good night and God bless you. B.L.R.

July 6, 1898

(No date on letter, best guess as to subject material)

Wednesday Morning

Dear family

I did not get a chance to send this last night, so will put in a few more words this morning. You need not bother to send any more stamps as arrangement have been made so the postage can be paid at the other end of the route. So you can get my letters just the same but you will have to pay the postage there. We only had hard tack and bacon & coffee for breakfast this morning. The dishes are not washed this morning yet. Am waiting for dish water to heat. There was lots of kicking

- (2) this morning but I could not help it if we don't get the stuff to cook we can't cook it. There was a great excitement here in camp last night over the great battle just won by the American fleet. Shouting and hurrahs were heard from all over the camp nearly all night. I was up at 3 o'clock this morning because I could not sleep. There was so much noise. The barrel with the package of hard tack is for you. Left here yesterday. Did not cost anything to send it so if you don't get them, there will be no loss but get them if you can. I think C. Perry will get them for you. Well the water is hot and I want to get this in the morning mail good by.

(Top of this page upside down) And if the babys face is covered with potatoes, eat a little of it for me as I am hungry and there is nothing

(Sideways top of first page) here to eat that would tempt a mans appetite even if he is hungry. Good by and lots of kisses for you all from your loving (husband). Burton L. Rider.

July 7, 1898

Camp Alger

For Charlie

Dear friend Charlie

I received your letter yesterday and am always glad to hear from you.

Sampson is all right and so is Hobson and take it all around Shafter isn't very slow. The Washington paper says Sampson destroyed 2 more boats yesterday and tonight they say

- (2) Santiago will be surrendered with bombarding. Am sorry the work is so slack. Hope it will be better. Charlie you are welcome to the studs and I don't want you to pay for them. You have paid for them a great many times already. I will get the pencil if I can but am afraid I can't get any. Have sent to Washington 3 or 4 times but haven't got any yet. I was lucky in getting the studs for you. They were the last the man had and there was 3 or 4 after
- (3) them. Tell the boys I am all right and that I answer all letters sent to me and will answer any one who will write to me except Dake the bluffer, flunker and the candy man. Charlie, I am glad you take such an interest in my interest and afraid you are working to hard and then you want to pay for a cheap set of buttons. No Charlie, I don't want you to do it. I owe you more than you do me. I remember Gifford perhaps Laura had better
- (4) let the old cow go. It would make less work for you all. How does the band prosper? It must be booming if they go on excursions. Tell them

we are trying get a band in our Regiment and perhaps they could get a job down here. Well I will close and go to bed as I have to get up uncommonly early to get breakfast for 6 men who are going out on porvo guard.

(Top of page sideways) So good night and write again. I have cleaned 5 pairs of pants and washed some under clothes for the Captain today making \$2.20 besides doing my regular work. Well, good night. Write again when you can. Remember me to all the boys. B.L.R.

July 7, 1898
Camp Alger

(For Laura, Marked as page 2)

I will be a great deal easier for me. I am glad you have so much company it keeps you from being lonesome. Many thanks for the Rose. Does Fish work on the Mott farm again? You say you hate to lose Charles board. Is he going to leave you? I am sorry to hear Mrs. K. has hurt herself. The 4th was a great day here. Canons, fire crackers & sham battles all day. And in the evening the air was full of rockets, roman candles and fire balloons and everything you can think of and music. It was one continual stream for about 4 hours. I wish you could have seen it and heard the music. It was great. I thought of you a great many times

- (2) and went away out of sight and cried like a child. I couldn't enjoy the fun and you so far from me and nothing to enjoy, but it was one of the greatest day in Santiago as you have seen by the paper that Sampson destroyed the great Spanish fleet. There was a great time when the news reached here and we get it direct from the President at Regimental head quarters as soon as it reaches him. Laura, would it be spending money foolishly if you
- (3) had your pictures taken and send to me? I will do a little extra work if you think not and pay for them but if you had rather have the money don't do it. Work Ben in too if you can. Now Laura do as you think best about going to C.L. but I think it would do you all good. Perhaps I will be home by the time you get ready to come home and may be I won't. I can't tell but it look to me as if the war would not last much longer but
- (4) can't tell. I have another box of clothes packed and nailed up to send to you. How much did it cost to send it and is it worth the freight? Let me know as soon as you can as I want you to get it before you go to the Lake. There are some things in it for you all, so give them as directed in box. The books are for Charlie, the towels are some the men thought were not worth washing and I did so. I washed them and sent them home. The cross guns are for Lillie. They are what we have to wear. The spoon is for Ethel if it is in there don't know

(Top of page 3 upside down) whether it is or not. If not some one stole it while I was packing the box.

(Across to next page upside down) It had the Maine engraved on the inside side of the bowl and camp Alger also.

July 10, 1898

Camp Alger

(2 sheets, 8 pages)

Dear Family & Friends at home

Well Lillie, I received your welcome letter yesterday and was very glad to get it as it is as near as I can get to you. It found me well and working but my face is quite sore yet. I wish we had a river here that we could get into. Ethel will be so large I will not know her when I get home. You must be careful of her when

- (2) you go in the river with her. I just sent the other piece of music in another box. I sent it yesterday. There is something in it for all of you. Tell Charlie to open it if you go to C.L. before it gets there. I did not pay the freight. How much did the other one cost? The spoon I spoke about I found and sent by mail today, also another package of paper, also one to Charlie and one to Minnie W. I have lots of more clothes and towels and will send them home if the freight is not more than the stuff is worth.

The letter you spoke

- (3) of is in Jersey City yet. There is some money in it and I told them not to mail it until they got to Oswego. Laura, when you get letters with money in them tell me and how much so I will know if you get what I send you. I wrote you a letter, a number of letters with a dollar in and you don't say a word about them. So please let me know when you get a letter with money in. I have \$6.00 in my pocket for you now but don't know what to do about sending it. Will not send it until I hear from you. I sent a money order for \$23.00 Friday.
- (4) Have you got the pictures yet and the money order? I have answered the letter about the cow. Sell her if you want to but you must buy all the milk that Ethel wants. If you do, don't deny her of her milk when she likes it so well. Well Lillie, I can't tell you much about Washington. One will have to see it to tell anything about the splendor of the place. The book will explain better than I can tell you.

(Top of page upside down) I did not find Will. The people that lived next to him said he had moved to Niagara Falls. Well I will have to close and go to bed as I have a hard day for tomorrow. It is ration day again and that means lots of work. Rec'd a

(Continued top of opposite page) letter from Father & Stickney today. Maud is very sick. Well Dear Laura Kiss the children good night for me. How I wish I could do it my self. Now write when ever I send money or postal orders. Good night. Lots of love to you all,

(Down side) remember me to all. B.L.Rider.

- (5) Don't pay any attention to what you hear as there is no truth in it as any one knows of. We hear everything here. One day we are going to Cuba, the next day to Costa Rica and the next to Long Island to do garrison duty. So Dr. Bulger don't know any thing about it any more than you do and no one will know until we get orders to move and then we will have to go where we are sent. So don't worry until you have some thing to worry about. I don't pay attention to what I hear. It is time to worry when we have to. You have a friend who is better than I and if it is his will that I
- (6)

shall go to the front he will take care of you in some way. And probably better than I can. Think of my coming back as black as a niger from the sunny south and don't look at the dark side for there is always sunshine after a shower. I was thinking I had written to Jim and I think I did but will write again. I haven't written to Grandmother yet. Receive a letter from Father today.

- (7) Maud has another kid. They are as well as can be expected. Now Lillie, I will answer your letter. I will send you a piece of music which you can learn to sing to me when I get home. Yes my Dear, nothing does me more good than to get a letter from my dear ones at home. No Lillie, keep them (the main paper and envelopes) if you want to or use them for any thing you want them for. You might send me one so I can keep it of you have written on it but keep the rest. I can get more here. You had quite a time with the cow. I should think you had better sell her if she is to much bother. You must look pretty slick there now. Wish I could step in and see you all and don't be surprised if I do but may not be in some time yet. May be it is best for you to not get a bike now as you need what little money I can send you for something else more than a wheel. I think Ben is a good dog. What will you take for him? I will give \$2.00 and here is your money. Use it or let Mama have it to use for you and keep Ben until
- (Top of page sideways across both pages)* I call for him. I have only made 40 cents today. I had all the cooking to do alone. Well my Dear, I must close as it is late and every one in camp is asleep but me. I know I won't get time to write tomorrow so have done it tonight. Tell Charlie to have patience. I will write when the men come back. Good night, kiss baby for me and keep lots for yourself. Burton R.

July 12, 1898

Camp Alger, Tuesday evening

Dear Wife and little ones

Received your letter today and was glad to hear from you and that you were all well. I am well and working. I sent you a letter Friday morning with an money order in it for \$23.00. I thought you would get it Saturday. Hope you have it before this time if not let me

- (2) know at once as I had to work to hard for it to loose. I have a little more for you as soon as I know that you have that. Johnny Clancy says his people are home and sent the letter to you that day probably you have it before this. Have you ever got my watch from Burden & Marsdens? If you haven't please inquire about it. I got a letter from Aunt *(Het)* Miller and one from Mother today and a card from Father yesterday and a letter from F. Stickney and Father Saturday.
- (3) Well it is bed time and I will have to close. Excuse this short letter and let me hear from you about the money and watch and the letter from Clancys. I sent some pictures to Lillie this morning. The camp is perfect. I am glad you sold the cow as it saves you lots of work but give the baby all she wants as long as I can work and earn it. Well I will close and will write again when I have more time. Take good care of the

- (4) little Angels and Kiss them for me. Excuse poor writing as it is done in a hurry. Remember me to all. (*Kren*) is Mr. & Mrs. K. Good night lovingly yours BLR. Lillie have you & Charley your paper yet? BLR

July 15, 1898

Friday, Camp Alger (4 sheets, 8 pages)

New letterhead. Labeled: Company D, 3rd Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brig. 2nd Division, 2nd Army Corps, Camp Russell A. Alger, Va.

Dear Family and all

- I have been very slow in answering your kind letters but don't you stop writing because I do as I am very busy the most of the time. I am well and hope this finds you all the same. I am out of the commissary & cooking business now and am drilling with the Company and washing when I get any to do. I had quite a lot of money for you but have lent it to the boys. If you need it before pay day again let me know and I will get some for you. I don't get as much work to do as I did so don't make as
- (2) much money but will make all I can and send you. I have spent some for luxuries. This month have bought quite a lot of milk but feel guilty every time I eat it as I think it is taking that much away from my Dear ones that need it worse than I do. But have resolved to be more careful and not spend any more when you need it so bad. I sent you a memorial of the company this week and today another box of dry goods and some glasses and C that I picked up and cleaned. The small ones are for the small children also the white cup is for Ethel, the 2 blue shirts are the ones I brought from home. I have some that I got for washing and I don't
- (3) want so much stuff to look after and so I send them home. If I ever come back I can wear them out. It won't cost any thing to keep them. The little books Lillie can give away to who ever she wants to. They were sent here with tobacco and I thought she would like them. Well I have to go and drill. Will finish this tonight. Well my Dear, here I am again. Tell Mrs. Owen we have a plenty to eat and a variety to. We had canned salmon, potatoes new, bread & coffee for dinner. Roast beef, potatoes and flour gravy & Bread for supper. Tomatoes, potatoes, coffee & bread
- (4) for breakfast this morning & tomorrow morning we get boiled rice, potatoes, bread & coffee. And we have had rice pudding, warm biscuits, a boiled dinner of pork cabbage, potatoes and most any thing that can be got at home except pie, cake & c. We haven't had pea soup but twice since we come here. We get butter once in a while when we have the money to buy it with also eggs and black berries. We have had 3 crates of them. Lots of beans both baked and boiled. We have some green onions and cabbage coming tomorrow. If Owens says we get nothing but pea soup he tells something that isn't so. The living is all right. There are some times it is
- (5) it is scorched or isn't quite cooked but very often. Well my Dears, by the reports here tonight we will not be here much longer but will be at home and there is where the most of us want to be if we are not wanted to defend our Flag and Country. This life is not a pleasant one I assure you.

The ground is a hard bed when you have nothing but a thin rubber blanket to lie on. Some of the men have bunks. I have one made out of 3 green poles and some boards

- (6) nailed on them to keep me off the ground but it is not very soft and the tents are crowded so it is very unpleasant. I haven't slept with my clothes off since I left home. So if I do ever come home and get in bed or under it on the floor don't wonder at it. We are used to it and sleep just as well as if we were on a bed. I bought myself a wash tub and board of my own tonight. I have lost lots of work because I didn't have a tub to wash with. Have you ever sent my revolver? I haven't received it yet if you have. I sent a pin with this for Charlie. Have you received the spoon for Ethel and paper I sent to Lillie and Charlie,
- (7) also the pictures, one of the camp (it is perfect) and the one of the Maine and the General? Please tell me when you get these things as I am anxious for you to get them and I will want to look at them some time. May be the pictures I didn't put any stamp on because I couldn't get them. I had money but there was no stamps to be got in camp. Lillie I am glad that you were pleased with the belt. Mama must look quite gay with a fancy belt on. I expect to be home
- (8) to see you with them on before long by the sound of the papers tonight unless something new turns up. I feel quite encouraged now about getting home soon unless some thing new turns up that is not known of now. Captain Tift went to Oswego today on a 10 day furlough. I could get one but it would cost so much that the money it would cost would do you more good than it would for me to come home and have to come back again. Well I must close for this time hoping this will find you all well. Tell me all about Ethel and take good care of her and Kiss her lots of times for me and Lillie too. Am in hopes I can do it my self before long
(*Top of page upside down*) Remember me to all and write as often as you can. Am sorry I can't send you some money. Have let Eddie (\$4.00). Good by.
Burton

July 17, 1898

Camp Alger

(3 sheets, 12 pages)

Dear Laura, Lillie & Ethel

I received your long letter yesterday and at a time when I had nothing to do and was thinking about you away off in the woods by myself. But the man that get the mail knew where I was and brought it to me. I am well and have lots more time to myself than I did when I was cooking and am not roasted to death

- (2) all the time and can eat more than I could when I had to cook it. My face is all well again but has been very sore and painful. You would not like to have me where you could see me any better than I would like to be where you could see me. Laura you must not work to hard. You keep preaching to me about working hard. You must look out for yourself. I am very glad you use the money I send you for something you need and it is a pleasure for me to send it and be able to earn it for you.

- (3) Am glad you can get something for baby. I think she must look slick in a white dress running around. Get her a bonnet and do you think one of those belts would be nice for her? If you do, tell me and I will get one for her. If you have nothing that is crowding you and don't need the money, you might offer to pay the band some. If you haven't it all, give them what you can spare but don't rob your self. I will have some more for you in about 2 weeks probably about \$25.00 so you can figure on that.
- (4) Frank Dake owes me 50 cents and if you could get the \$5.00 from Fisher and Doolittle owes me \$2.00-3.00. The note is there. If you could get some potatoes or something of him it would be as good as the money to you as long as you have to buy them. If Fisher works for *(Quinn)* tell him and I guess he will fix it so you can get it. Did you go to the picnic? I hope you did on Lillies account for I know she would enjoy going so much. I can get a belt for Carrie if you think she would like it but don't give her yours. I am so glad that baby remembers me. The picture must be good if she knows who it is. Am glad every one likes our little angel so well.
- (Top of first page sideways)* Kiss baby for me and remember me to all. BLR. Wish I had some money to send you. There is about \$11.00 owing to me.
- (5) *(Marked 2)* Hope she will always be good so every one will always like her but look out that she don't get spoiled for when I come home I want to find a nice little girl which I think I will. I would like to see my picture but guess it won't pay to send it here. Do what you like with the ones taken in W. but think Father would like one if you have it to spare. I think you are doing well to pay so much and be able to get something for yourselves. I would like to come home and find all debts paid and will work and earn money for you to pay them with as long as I can get the work to do. I am glad you didn't except any thing of Page
- (6) so when I come home they won't have that to throw at me and if I can get steady work some where else. I don't know as I will ask them for work but don't tell any one about this for I may be obligated to ask them for work. I heard about Nats boy by some one, don't know who. Yes, we have new potatoes and they are very nice too. It is very dry and hot here. Lots of the men sleep out in the woods. I have built me a bed. One of the men went in with me and we built a double decker. Here is a model of it. () It is built
- (7) of round poles and is quite comfortable, better than the ground. Well I guess I will answer Lillies letter now. Well Lillie, I think that Ethel must be quite a young lady to talk so much you must teach her to write so she can write to me. I don't see many horses here but lots of mules, very seldom a bicycle but lots of men and very few women and children. There was a couple of women visiting a man in our tent from Washington today. She brought a large basket full of good stuff
- (8) and shared it with every man in the tent so I got my share of Fig cake, jell cake, fried cakes, sandwiches, cheese, cookies and olives, pickles and canned fruit. Tell Mrs. Owens we had baked pork & beans, coffee & bread for dinner. Lillie you say you wish you could come down here. I wish you could too. I wouldn't do a thing but hug and kiss you. Our Captain is in Oswego and would have you come with him if there was any

way to get you home again. I may possibly come home on a furlough if we stay here much longer. Which would you rather have me come home for a few days or the money it would

- (9) *(Marked 3)* cost for me to come? Ask Mama and see what she says. Are there going to be many pansies? Wish I were there to see them. You must look gay with your new belt and Mama, oh my, she must look neat enough to kiss. If I were there, I think I would try it any way. I am glad to send you something you will both enjoy but if I bought every thing that came into camp I could not send you any money at all for there is something all the time. But I can't get any more of those pencils or buttons. I have tried hard as I would like to accommodate those who wants them. You can tell them so they will not
- (10) *(Marked 4)* I don't try to get them. I have asked nearly every peddlet that comes here to try and get some for me but can't get any yet. I have a silver ring with my name, Company and Regiment stamped on it. Paid 25 cents for it. I can't tell you Lillie whether I will come home before you get back or not, probably not. Sometimes I think I will be home soon and then the papers talk war again so can't tell any thing about it. I would like to come home I assure you. You mustn't mind the boys playing you about me, it is none
- (11) *(Marked 5)* none of their business. Well I guess I will close for this time and write to Uncle Elmer. I received a letter from Carrie a few days ago. Hope this will find you all well. It is very warm here today. I am out in the woods in the shade but there is no air stirring. Shall look for a few lines from you Tuesday. Hope you will have a good time at Cedar Lake. Wish I were there to go with you but you must write to me often and tell me all about your visit and the folks there. It looks a little like rain.
- (12) Lillie there are men all around me drinking beer. Some are so drunk they can hardly sit up. Others are laid out entirely. How would you like to hear I was so full of beer I couldn't sit up? But don't you worry I see enough so I don't want it. Our Company had 4 Barrels yesterday and it is all gone. And I did not take a drink neither did Eddie Peavey. Eddie is a good boy but he spends lots of his money for cake, cookies, pies, water melon & the like. It is all right if he can afford it but I would rather send the money to you so you can have it than to eat it myself. Well good by and write when you can.

(Up side) Tell Charlie to write after you are gone. BLR

July 19, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Wife & Family

I looked for a letter from you today but did not get it. Hope this finds you all well as this leaves me so. I succeeded in getting some more buttons today have forgot who you said wanted them. I sent a set to Mrs. Wilson. Don't let her pay for them and you can do as you like about the others. They are .25.

- (2) If they are for our friends don't charge for them but if Mrs. Mead or some one like her gets them let them pay for them. It is very warm here today

and has been for a number of days but is raining quite hard now and will be cooler for a while after it is over. One of our men out of our company had a sunstroke this A.M. and is unconscious yet. An ambulance took him to the Hospital a short time ago. He was a recruit from Syracuse. I sent you a Testament this morning

(3) and Mama a book and have another for her which I will send as soon as I can get a stamp and will send her more of them if she wants them, as they are very cheap and good reading. So if Mama wants any more tell me and I will get them for her. We had a good dinner today, (*hamburger*) steaks smothered in onions, new boiled potatoes, coffee and bread and mustard. How is that for Owens pea soup? Don't let any one stuff you up like that as we have good living and well

(4) cooked of course. We have to cook over an open fire and some dirt is sure to blow on the grub but it is as clean as can be had. It takes a boiler full of coffee, a big one to. Bigger than Mamas by one half for a meal about 1 1/2 bushels of potatoes and 45 lbs. of beef and 30 loaves of bread for a meal. The bread is very good and fresh. Is baked in the night and we get it about 8 o'clock the next morning. It is still warm some times. It is drawn from Washington here in large covered wagons with 4 & 6 horses on them and from 4,000 to 6,000 lbs. of bread at a load and our Regiment takes 2 loads a day.

(*Top of first page sideways*) Well Lillie, I will close for this time as it is hard to write any thing to interest you as you don't know any one or any thing about us down here. There can 2 men go home on a 7 day furlough every week. Wish you could come down with them and stay a week with me and see what camp life is. Well write

(*Top of pages 2 and 3 upside down*) as often as you can. I suppose you are ready to go to C.L. by this time. Hope you will have a good time. Wish I could be there to go with you. Kiss Mama and baby for me and remember me to all. Good by. BLR

July 20, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Wife & Children

I haven't any news to write as I sent a letter to you this morning and received yours after I had sent it away. Don't send the Revolver now as I guess I shall not need it. I am not in the Band and I guess I can't get in either but have tired my best to get in. They don't want a valve tenor. They want someone that can play a slide. There was a drummer left here last night for Oswego on a 10 day furlough. His name is Charles Hunt. He is going to Menitto and will call on you. He is a good fellow treat him well give him plenty of good things

(2) to eat and any message you have for me he will bring. Mr. Jones was very kind. I will write to him when I have more time. I am on guard today. Went on last night at 8 o'clock and will get relieved at 8 tonight. I think you are getting along fine paying debts. I guess you do better when I am away from home or else you are a better manager than I am. I am disappointed about you not having your pictures. I had look forward for

them to arrive but may be it is just as well to pay debts first or a little better. Well I have no more time now so will close with Love to all and lots of kisses to you all. B.L.R. Send Lillie down here with Charles Hunt I can't get a stamp to put on this so I will have to have the Chaplain put his stamp on and you will have to pay the postage.

July 22, 1898
Camp Alger

(No date on letter, best guess as to subject material)

Dear Lillie this paper is rather dirty but is all I have out here in the woods with me so guess I will use it. I am glad mama likes the books but she did not say whether she did or not. I can get more but have forgotten the names of the ones I sent her. If you will tell me the names I will see if I can get some thing different for her and send to her. Is there enough postage on them? Am glad to hear you have another new dress. Is Mr. Whitford home now?

- (2) I should think Mertie was making quite a visit. Probably the man you saw was one of our men as there are 2 or 3 of them away the most of the times. 2 more went home yesterday. Lillie, I am sorry you can't come down here but don't think it would be best myself. But would like to have you see how we have to live here and what we have to do. The drills are very nice for any one to look at especially the Dress Parade at 6 o'clock in the eve. There is some one going every week so there would have been lots of chances for you to come home but may be you had better give it up and not come as it is so warm here. It might make you sick.
- (3) I wish I could get some of your pop corn. You must have all your baby teeth nearly all out now. You must be getting to be quite a house keeper. Your mother is away so often. This makes twice since I left home she has left you alone to keep house. Dinner is ready. I will have to go and eat it or go with out. Well, I have had my dinner. We had baked pork & beans, coffee & bread and have had another shower and looks as if we would get another soon. Lillie you are a good girl to get your sunday school lessons. I feel proud to think I have such a good girl. Hope you will always be good and teach your little sister to be good to. It is sprinkling and wet my paper so I can't write very good on wet paper and there is not much to write to interest you only the men are quarreling about
- (4) room in the tent. I have a little bed of my own outside so I don't bother any one or they don't bother me. I have my shelter tent over it to keep off the dew at night and sun & rain at other times. It is made out of poles out of the woods and is made something like a crib. Only it is big enough for a man to get into and turn over. Lillie I have a piece of brick and 2 or 3 pieces of stone out of the old (*Gener*) Fairfax house. Will send them to you sometime before long. Well I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Kiss baby for me and take good care of her. Write as often as you can and tell me all the news. When you go home let me know so I will know where to send to you. Good by. Remember me to all, lovingly yours. B.L.Rider.

(Additional sheet enclosed with drawing) Lillie here is a picture of my bed and shelter tent over it as near as I can get it on paper. The bed is made

of small hickory tree or poles and fastened together with strips of bark and a few nails. Would use more nails but could not get them. The bottom or place where I lay is made of bark woven together like a market basket. I have a straw tick now filled with straw. I bought the straw. Gave 25 cents for a hundle and a small one at that. The tick I made

(2) out of some old burlap bags that the potatoes came in. I ripped them apart and washed them and then sewed them together and call it a straw tick. It isn't as nice looking as your Aunt Carrie is in her front room bed but it answers the same purpose. And is quite comfortable side of laying on the ground with nothing under us as the most of the men do as they haven't got enough to build a bunk. There is some one on mine the most of the time through the day as it is out of the large tents and is quiet

(Up side) and one can rest and no one to trouble him.

(Top of page upside down) Well Lillie, it is raining again and the wind blows some so my candle is nearly out some of the time and I will have to close for tonight. I will have to go out on Provo guard tomorrow. Will be gone 24 hours but will tell you all about the place where I go. Some of the men find some nice crystals. Out where I go may be I can get some. Good night.

July 27, 1898
Camp Alger

Dear Wife & Family

I have been looking for a letter from you for a number of days expecting to hear you had gone to C.L. but haven't rec'd one yet. So here goes. I am well and hope this finds you all the same. The man I wrote you about came back yesterday. He says he got started for Menitto on his wheel and he had to go back and didn't start again. I expected to hear from home and by one who had been there and look forward to his return and was greatly disappointed when he told me he did not go up there and presume you were just as much so. I am out on provo

(2) guard duty about 2 miles from our camp. Am guarding a lot of provision shacks filled with pies, cakes, cookies and all sorts of stuff but they do me no good as I haven't a cent. I got trusted for a quart of milk this morning. I ought not have to have done it but I wanted it so bad I couldn't help it. Some of the men owe the milk man as high as \$4.00 or \$5.00. Ed told me this morning that he owed half of his next months pay. Ray Althouse says he owes \$7.00 of his and I owe .5 cents of mine unless I can work and earn it before that time. I sent a letter to Mr. Jones this morning also one to Father and a piece of music to Lillie. Has Lillie got the buttons yet and do you like the books I sent you? If not

(3) I won't send any more. It is very hot here today. I expect our Regiment will move down nearer to Dunn Loring soon but my address will be the same as before. 2 companies from our Battalion left yesterday morning. One of them went to Falls Church and the other to the Aqueduct Bridge across the Potomac going into Washington and the other two companies in the Battalion will do provo guard duty until their return which will be in about 20 days. I guess by the sound of the papers we will not be here

much longer as Spain wants to sign for peace. I hope she will do something before long for I am sick of this kind of life. I can come home and eat most anything

- (4) and say nothing. We have enough to eat but it is not cooked at home. Bread is all right for the kind it is but is not home made. Baked bread never was for me. I want to see you very bad today. Had my mind partly made up to go home but my hopes are shattered now as we can only get a pass for 10 days at the most and would cost me about \$23.00. The \$11.62 I wrote you about is for furlough only and I guess nothing but officers get them. A poor private has to spend all the money he gets for any thing like that. When an officer gets the same thing for half the money. Well I will close this is a poor letter. Will

(Up side) do better next time.

(Top of last page upside down) Kiss baby & Lillie for me and remember me to all Friends. Write as soon as you can. Lovingly, B.L.R.

July 28, 1898

Camp Alger

(4 sheets, 8 pages)

Thursday morning. Did not send my letter yesterday and received yours this morning. It came yesterday but I was out of camp so did not get it until I returned this morning. We had a hard rain here last night but is fine today. I have no work to do so will talk with you for a time on paper. I received a letter from Birdell Northrop this morning. The last man I ever expected to hear from. I think Ben is a good dog to look after the baby so well. Laura my dear, I am afraid that it will cost so much for me to come home and

- (2) you and the children could get so much more enjoyment out of the money than you could if I came home. Some of the men say it won't cost but about \$11.00 or \$12.00 and others say it will cost over \$20.00. And think of the good things you could get to eat and wear with \$20.00. You could pay the loan for six weeks and have a little left. You could stay at the lake so much longer and enjoy yourselves. I never have sent Carrie anything so you can take them if you wish. Did you ever give her the cross guns I asked you to send her? Wish I could see the flowers. Bird Northrop sent me a large geranium leaf and a blossom in the letter. Wish I had some of your cucumbers. I haven't even seen one this year yet and I like them so well, you know.
- (3) I think you are doing nobly paying debts. Am sorry I haven't money for you. But I can't borrow it for you and we will probably not get it before from the 5 to 8 of next month. If you could borrow what you want and tell me who you get it of, I will send it to them as soon as I get it. There has been so much beer in camp that they want their money to buy it and get trusted for their washing. I have \$1.60 worth of work tomorrow. Yesterday
- (4) I made \$3.65 but it is not often I get that chance. It was on account of the inspection that I had the chance but did not get a cent in money. It was all trust. Was everything in the box all right? I hope nothing was broken. Use what you have to go home with and I will send money to any

one you say to pay the loan when I get it. Fix it any way you like and let me know what you do. Well Lillie, I can get you a pin, I guess, but I haven't the price of one now. I have a few stamps and that is all I have got now. Take care of the stuff in the box for me except what was sent to others especially the letters.

- (5) I am sorry for Charlie but he will come out all right in time but think Miss C. might of used him different when she was there and then he would not got so far gone on her but it can't be helped now. Hunt is back so you won't have to send any thing. He tried to go up there but broke his wheel and had to go back and his time was so short he could not try it again. You don't wish I could see the baby any more than I do. I can't imagine how she would look and act if I could see her but perhaps I will see
- (6) her between now and next spring. But can't tell. The Washington papers say that the President is anxious to get the war question settled and reduce the army so it won't cost the government so much to take care of them. Besides the men are getting very uneasy and want to go home if they are not needed and that is my sentiments to. Maybe Rickey is coming home I don't know. He is not here has not got back from the hospital yet but don't worry about me. I don't deal in that kind of stock. He feels worried for fear it will get to Minetto and so it has. I know a man who wrote to Charlie Smith about him. I sent another box to you yesterday you had better keep the glasses and give Mrs. W. some of the clothes if *(Up side)* she wants them, do as you like.
- (Top of this page upside down)* There must be another box near you now for this makes the 4 one. Have you the one with the uniform in it yet? Take care of them for me as I can take
- (Top of first page sideways)* the stripes off and wear them to work in if I want to. Well I will close for this time and write a few lines to Lillie. Kiss baby for me and lots for your self. Love to all. B.L.R.
- (7) Did you go to the picnic? They must of had a fine time. I am sorry to hear such reports from the Menitto Firemen. Well Lillie, perhaps the money would do you more good than I could if I come and it would upset your going to C.L. and you probably enjoy that better. Well I will close for this time as it is bed time. Rec'd letter from Mr. W. this morning and one from Father yesterday. Maud is better. Well good night.
- (8) All Kisses for you all and be good to Ethel. Write as often as you can and let me know when you go to C.L. B.L.R. Be sure and address your letters right. Dunn Loring, Camp Alger, VA. Co. D, 3, N.Y.V.I. You left the Co. D off of the one I got today and if one of our men hadn't been there when the mail came I might not got it. B.L.R.

July 30, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Wife & Children

Received your welcome letter this morning. Was glad to hear you were well but sorry the babe is broken out with heat. Poor little thing, how she must suffer this hot weather. I am well and working when I have any

- thing to do. But work is not very plenty as the men are like myself all busted but payday will be
- (2) here before long so I will have lots of work again. Also, some money for you. Hope you will have a good time down there. Wish I could be there with you but the money will do you more good and you need so many things and I want you to get what you want. Will I send the \$25.00 you got of Charlie to him or to you? Let me know at once as I think I will get my pay soon as I signed the pay roll this morning and we got our last pay before the 7th of this month.
- (3) I sent a letter to you yesterday morning. You would have got it today if you were home. Lillie you must not cry for me if you can help it. I am well and so are you but you won't be if you worry & cry about me all the time. I am all right and will probably be home before long unless something new turns up that we know nothing about. The Lord knows what is best and if he think it is best for us to stay here, here we will stay and he will take care of us. You ask him to help
- (4) the right side and he will do it and do the right thing too. And Mama must brace up to and not get discouraged as all will come out right in time, as long as we are all well and I am able to do extra work and earn money for you to get what you need. I only wish I could earn more. Laura be a brave little women and bear the burden you have to bear and trust in the Lord for everything to come out right and he will do his
(Up side) duty if you will do yours and I
(Across top page 2 and 1 sideways) think you will. If you feel bad just think that you are not so bad off as you might be. Think of the two little children left to your care and you know if you are down hearted that they will grieve with you and it makes my heart ache to hear that Lillie cries for me. So as I said before be brave and trust your Master to help you out. Well I have another washing to do so will close for this time. Hope you will have a fine time, which you will if you try to and I think you will. So good by, Kiss the Dear little ones for me and remember me to all friends to and write often and tell me all the news. B.L.R.

August 1, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Family

I sent you a package of old letters this morning by mail. I have no place to keep them here so will send them to you. Please take care of them for me and when I get home I will look them over and perhaps destroy them but I want to see them again if I come home. And the Washington papers say that 115,000 troops are going to be mustered out some time this month, but we can't depend much on what we read in them.

- (2) I came in this morning off of provo guard at 9 o'clock after 24 hours of duty and am nearly whipped today but have some work to do this afternoon but don't know how much I will do. Well Lillie, I suppose you are having a big time down there riding around. I suppose you help do the milking, feed the pigs & chickens, gather the eggs and lead the hens to water. Would you rather live on a farm down there than live at home on

our little place with our little stock of chickens and pigs? I had forgotten that we had any pigs. I wonder how they look. I haven't heard from Charlie since you left there but wrote to him yesterday. (*Page missing to finish letter*)

August 3, 1898

Falls Church, Va.

*Army and Navy Christian Commission
New letterhead: of the International Committee
Young Men's Christian Associations,
Nine West 29th Street, New York City.
William B. Millar, Secretary of the Commission
Camp Alger, J. F. Moore, W. N. Multer, Camp General Secretaries*

(2 sheets, 4 pages)

Dear Wife & family

I looked for a letter from you today but there was none came this P.M. I am well but some tired & sleepy. I went on guard yesterday morning, was on until 12 o'clock at midnight. Was called out at 4 this morning and washed until noon and was put on guard again at 1 o'clock and will have to stay until 1 o'clock tomorrow. Our Regiment has all gone except two companies our Co. & Co. K. We are left here for Provo guard until the camp is cleared out, and then we will

- (2) go with the Regiment at Manassas Junction, about 25 miles from here. We will have to walk and carry our packs and guns and rations for 2 days but we are liable to be here for a week or 10 days yet. Can't tell when we will go. Send your letters here until I send you word to send them somewhere else. I received a letter from Father yesterday. Maud is so she gets out to the table to eat with them but is not very strong yet. I also received a P.O. money order for \$15.00 to pay my fare home but no more furloughs will be issued until the Regiment is settled together somewhere so it may be some time before I can come. Don't cut your visit short
- (3) on my account for I can't tell when I can come. If I can come before I hear you are home I will come there. Don't tell any one where I got the money to come with as it might make feelings between Elmer and Father. I can hardly wait until the time comes for me to see you and my Dear Children. Perhaps you had better not say anything about it but do as you like. We are getting rather poor fodder for the last few days. Guess the cooks are drinking to much beer, as the stuff is not half cooked what we do get. I do lots of work
- (4) but don't get any money as the men are all out of money. I haven't had a cent in a long time more than enough to get postage stamps with. I will have to send the P.O. order to Minetto as it is made payable there before I can get the money on it but we expect our pay every day now. And if we get it I can keep the order until I come and then I can get it cashed and

not have to run any risk sending it. I have a box all ready to send to Mrs. Wilson. Will send it as soon as I get off guard. I have under clothes, glasses, one pair of white duck pants for Jim, towels, handkerchief, 3 or 4 books and some other stuff. Well my Dear, I will have to close and go and walk my post again. Write when you can.

(Top of page upside down) 104 in shade today and I have to wear a coat while on duty.

(Top of page 3 upside down) Lillie I suppose you are having a good time down there. How do you think Ben gets along with out you and Ethel there to play with him? Guess he will be glad when

(Sideways) you get back. Tell Ethel to drink lots of milk for me while she is there where she can get all she wants.

(Right side up) Kiss baby for me. Well good by and write when you can.
BLRider.

August 6, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Wife & Children

Rec'd your welcome letter today. I haven't done much but lay around all day. Washed a little, cleaned a pair of pants that one of the men was going to burn and was offered \$1.50 for them tonight and sold them and done .60 cents worth of washing besides. So I have made pretty good wages today. I have to go on guard tomorrow

(2) for 24 hours. It seems to be my luck to get guard duty every Sunday. I got three days in succession this week. Our Regiment is all gone from here except Co. D & K and we will go as soon as our trick of Provo guard is done which will be in about another week or 10 days. Ray Althouse is the proud father of a 4 1/2-lb girl. Rickey will be discharged from the Army on account of his disability to do duty. Well I have just eat a quart of milk and 6 slices of bread.

(3) I sent 2 nice song books to Lillie and a package of books to you yesterday, and a box of stuff to Mr. Wilson's people yesterday with a little of everything in it. Received a letter from Minnie this morning. She is going home to stay awhile. There will be no more furloughs issued until the Regiment is settled somewhere together. The camp they selected was condemned before the men got there and they selected another about 10 miles farther

(4) on and the men have to walk there with packs on their backs just as they left Oswego on the night we came away. It is about 35 miles from here. Laura my Dear, don't say anything about my money it is yours and I owe you all I can get and more too. It is nice to have lots of money but I would not give one of our children for all the money & fine things in the world. If I was worth ten million

(Up side) and had to give up one

(Top of page 4 and 1 sideways) of my little angels or the money I should say take the money by all means. I have no money to get paper with now but as soon as I get some I will send some. I guess cucumbers wouldn't be very good by the time they got here and it would cost so much to send them by

express. It would not pay. Well I will close for this time and go to bed so I will be ready for tomorrow, as it will be a hard day. I will write to Lillie the first part of the week. I have another piece of music for her. Is it worth sending home? If not, I won't bother with it. The music don't cost anything but the postage will. Good night write as often as you can and tell me all the news. Remember me to all. Kiss Children and love to you all good night. B.L.R

August 8 & 9, 1898

Camp Alger

(4 sheets, 8 pages)

Dear Laura Lillie & Ethel

I sent a letter to Lillie this afternoon and promised to write a longer one next time so will commence it now as I am lonesome and haven't nothing else to do and I must do something. I done some work tonight just before supper and got paid for it and spent .05 cents for some milk for supper and I had a feast too. I eat 6 slices of bread and a quart of milk it was the best supper I have had

- (2) in a long time. I borrowed 10 cents to get some paper for Carrie and sent it yesterday. I will look for a letter from you tomorrow and hope I will not be disappointed. Have you the books, music and old letters? The music I think is pretty good and something Lillie can always play and will never wear out. The man I sold the pants to has just been here and wants me to take them back again. He had a new pair issued to him tonight. I also had a pair of new leggings forced upon me as the officers said every one had to have them. And I will have to pay for them and they have
- (3) ordered a new hat and the one I have is as good as the new ones we get from the government. So you see how we are treated by Officers. If they say for you to get new outfits, we have to get them and ask no questions. So you see how we are nothing but dogs or not quite as good for you can send a dog after the cows and you will have to milk them yourself but here we have to do the milking after they come and the officers take the cream. That is from \$120.00 to \$150.000 a month for Co. Officers and we poor privates get \$15.60 which you might call the whey after cheese has been made of the skimmed milk. Well my dear you can judge by the sound of this letter about how I feel tonight. We might have a good time and enjoy ourselves if the officers was like the men but they have the authority and they like to show it and they do it.

(4) **Tuesday, Aug. 9.**

Well my Dears, here I am at it again. I was lucky enough to get out of doing guard duty today. Don't know how it happened. There is quite a little excitement around here today over one of the Nigger Soldiers shooting a wench yesterday and then he skipped out. And a whole Regiment is looking for him and if he is found the chances are he will be shot at sight. One of our men saw him but didn't know what he had done and had no orders to stop him so he let him go. Another of our men shot at a 65 N.Y.V. Sunday. He caught him stealing green corn out of a farmer's corn field. He did not hit him but the man is in

(5) the stockade awaiting a trial. Probably he will see a lot of hard labor before he gets out of it. We had a hard rain here yesterday after noon and nearly all night and is still cloudy. Looks as if it would rain again before noon. But hope not as I have quite a lot of clothes on the line and I want to get them dry and off my hands. Well my dinner is almost ready so I will adjourn for a while. We will get fried onions, potatoes, roast beef, bread & coffee. I spent .05 more for milk this morning. Had pudding & milk for breakfast (corn meal pudding) and it was good too. Ed Peavey & I are going to send another box home soon. I will send everything that I can possibly get along without as we go on a 50 mile march soon and I don't want to carry any more

(Up side) than is necessary.

(6) Well it is afternoon and I haven't any thing to do but to talk with you on paper. I looked for a letter from you today but got left. I have been washing some today but is a poor day to dry them. It rained about 2 o'clock and all I had on the line got wet and I had to take them all down and rinse them all over again. I hear Rickey goes home tomorrow on his discharge. If I was to go home under the same circumstances, I should want to go where no one could see me that knew me. And if I were single, I would never go to Menitto as it would always stick to me and especially one who is as toney as he was.

(7) Well it's going to rain again and I will have to get the clothes in again as they will get wet again. Well here I am home again just after doing 24 hours of Provo guard duty. The report this morning is that our Regiment moves to Middletown, Penn and that is a pretty straight report. That is quite a ways from here and we will have to go by train and is nearer home. I can't tell anything about what will become of us yet. There is lots of reports afloat. I received a letter from Charlie this morning. He was very glad to hear from me and says he will be very glad when I get home. I will send the letter to you and you can save it for me. Put it with the rest of my old letters.

(8) I expected to get a letter from you this morning but guess you are so busy a visiting you don't have time to write. Here it is Thursday and not a word this week yet. Well I haven't much news this morning. Only we had a good post we were guarding, a private house and crops. The people were very kind to us. We slept in the house when we were off duty in the front room on the floor was our bed room last night. They gave us some milk & tea for supper & this morning they gave us tea and corn meal pancakes, plum jam and butter & sugar. Well I will close and try and sleep a little before dinner. Now write and let me know where you are and how you are getting along. Remember me to all and Kiss baby lots of times for me. Love to all. Burton L. Rider

August 15, 1898

Camp Alger

Dear Family

Received your welcome letter Saturday and a picture of Elmers family and yourselves last night. The picture is not a very good one I don't think

- Laura. You look as if you were nearly as old as Mr. Campbell in the picture. I haven't sent the money yet. We haven't been paid yet and probably won't be before we reach Middletown, Penn. and I hear we start in the morning but we don't know anything about it. A Soldier isn't supposed to know any thing
- (2) and if we stay here much longer we won't know anything. I have the money order Father sent me yet don't know what to do with it. Have been waiting for our pay so I could send it all together if you don't want me to come home. Will wait a few days more and then if we don't get our money will send it to Charlie. Well my dears, I have had my dinner. Had hard tack and milk and this morning I had milk and hard tack. But I have spent my last cent again so will have to take what is given me or none. The grub we are getting now is pretty rank. The coffee is no good at all and some of the men are sick from drinking it.
- (3) I haven't got my pay yet and don't know when I will get it. Some say we will get it tomorrow. Hope so as I am afraid you will need some to use. Has your money all gone yet? I sent Aunt C. a package of paper and envelopes yesterday. Find out what size pants Uncle Elmer wears if you can and not let him know what you want to know for and send me the size when you write. Our Company is scattered all over the country, yet some of them I haven't seen in 2 weeks.
- (4) Well Lillie, my wash water is hot so I will close for this time. Give my love to all and excuse this short letter. Will do better next time. I have to go out on provo guard again in the morning for 24 hours. Sent a letter to Minnie this morning and answered all of her questions. The letter is in the package also a piece of music for you and a picture of a man by the name of H. L. Ryder of the 3rd Regiment of Missouri. He comes to see me and I go to see him quite often but we can't make out any relation between us. Well good by, kiss baby and Mama for me and remember me to all. B.L.Rider

August 19, 1898

Middletown, Pa.

(6 sheets, 12 pages)

Dear Family

- It has been some time since I heard from you or you from me. I am well but nearly tired out. We broke camp at 4 o'clock yesterday morning (Thursday) but lay around camp until about 2:30 when we shouldered our packs and started for Dunn Loring. It was terrible hot and dusty. We only got one halt and that a short one. We were about an hour on the march, a distance of 3 1/2 miles. Lots of the men put up a big bluff and played sick and were carried to D.L. in
- (2) the Ambulance wagon. And seven out of our Company dropped on the road. Art Owens was one of the ones that dropped out and I noticed my Dear that the ones who started out of camp half drunk and a bottle in their pocket were the ones that dropped out. Thank the Lord, I am free from the clutches of whiskey. And any one that has ever been a Soldier and did not have the appetite before they went into the army and got it after they joined need blame no one but their selves as they will have to

- make quite an effort to get it. One man got a permit to go to Washington yesterday morning and he brought back about 5 gallons to my knowledge.
- (3) The biggest share of it was for Officers. And when they get hold of any thing of that kind no one but them get it. They are the biggest lot of hogs called men in the world and a private is nothing unless they have whisky or money and then they are good men as long as the whiskey & money lasts and then they are dogs again. Laura if there was ever any thing in this world I am sick of it is this volunteer war business or the way it is run by the Officers. They are making a fat thing out of it and are going to hang on to it as long as they can. Well, as I said we broke camp at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. We had some hard tack and sow belly for breakfast and did not get anything more only
- (4) what we bought until 7:30 last night. We got some hard tack, coffee and rotten corned beef. And we just got something they called coffee and hard tack and there is some men around selling pies and the men are buying them to keep them alive. I will say we have our pay and I will send it home as soon as I can get where I can. I have \$53.00 now but don't know but I shall be obliged to use some of it to get something to eat. Yet I have managed to live so far, but we are side tracked about a mile from the village and are on the train yet. We got here at one o'clock last night and it is now eleven and we are still here.
- (5) We left Washington about 6:30 last night and did not stop until we reached Baltimore. We were there about 15 minutes. Did not stop again until we got to York, Pa. when we were transferred to another road and got into Pittsburgh about 12. Made a short stop there and then was sent on to Middletown. And here we are and a slow drizzling rain is falling and we have a 2 miles march before us unless the report is true. The report is that the Major won't except the camp ground staked out for us but don't know how true it is. Well, I don't think of any more now but perhaps I can before I get a chance to send this. Oh, I forgot to say that the order to march was countermanded and we were brought by train and we are on
- (Up side) the train yet.
- (6) Saturday 10:30. Dear ones, I am well but nearly played out by hard work and hot fire as I have been put back on the cooking outfit again. I made a big kick but it made a bad matter worse by doing it. The less we say here the better we are off. We got off the train yesterday about noon did not get anything to eat until 5 o'clock last night. After leaving the train, I was detailed to unload the baggage car and worked until 3 o'clock at that when I went to camp and was put to getting something to eat for the men and only one man to help me. So you can make up your mind I am about as near dead as I can be and work. Don't know
- (7) when or how I will get this mailed or get a chance to send the money. We can't trust anyone to do it for us and there is no postal service here yet and I can't get out of camp because I am not sucker enough. We are in one of the finest place in the U.S. I think we are on the bank or a short distance from the Susquehanna River. And on the opposite side there are mountains covered with trees and it is the prettiest sight I ever saw. The fields around us are as green as in spring. Nice farming country and very

- fine buildings and pieces of timber but we are camped in an open field, a large meadow of about 50 or 75 acres in it. We are in sight of the Rail Road in fact there are 3 different roads run along the river. When are
- (8) you going home? Tell Carrie I have inquired about the package she sent me but could get no trace of it. Ask her if it was properly addressed. I was in hopes to get it as we have fared pretty slim for the last month and any thing besides sow belly would be a treat to me. I have plenty of money but we can't get any thing unless we pay twice it value and I won't do that as long as I can possibly live with out it. Some of the men have spent all their money and are borrowing all they can but I won't lend any more. They get as much as I do and if they want to blow their money playing poker, and buying whiskey they will have to get along the best they can
- (9) for I know you need all the money I have for yourself and children. And I am more than anxious to send it to you but there is no possible chance. And there is lots of chances of having it stolen. I don't sleep more that half of the time nights for fear of loosing it. So the sooner I get rid of it the better I will like for there are a dozen after me every day to borrow it and I have to lie to them and say I haven't got any. Well I have got to get to work again at the dinner. Good by. Well here I am again for a few minutes. I never was so sick of anything in my life as I am of this life. We have our camp established, tents pitched and ready to live again. And now we have orders to pull every thing up and move about 10 rods to one side and turn one half around. Anything to keep a soldier on the jump all the time and then the
- (10) Officers have some one to boss around. There is about 35 men sick out of our company. Some of them gone to the hospital. Company C lost a man about a week ago and he was buried at Fort Meyer near Washington and another man from Co. Y was taken away in a hearse yesterday. And it is reported that a Captain and a Lieutenant in the first Battalion have since they have been detached from us when we left camp Alger. The other two Battalions of our Regiment were at Manassas but they haven't arrived here yet. The men in the 4 companies of our Battalion are getting up a petition to be mustered out of the service but don't know
- (11) as it will do any good. A sicker lot of men you never saw than the 3 rd. Regiment N.Y.V.I. is and there is but few men but would get out if possible. But I don't think but we will have to serve our 2 years before we get out but I hope not. But the Officers are making a big thing out of this and they are going to hold it down as long as possible. Well my Dear ones, I guess I will close this up and send it when I get a chance but can't tell when that well be. Lillie I have another piece of music for you. Did not cost anything. But the music is there just the same. You must have quite a stock on hand now and you must be quite a good player by this time. Hope you are all well and having a good time. Wish I could have a good time
- (12) too but I am thinking it will be a long time before there will be any good time for me. Let me hear from you as soon as you get this for I haven't heard from any one in a long time only Mrs. Doolittle sent me a lot of old Oswego papers about a week ago. Well good by and remember me to all

and lots of love & kisses to my family. Address Camp Meade Middletown, Pa. Co. D, 3 Reg. N.Y.V.I. Send address to Elmer. B.L.Rider

August 22, 1898

Camp Meade, Pa.

Dear Wife & Children

Monday morning breakfast over, dishes washed and well and hope this find you all the same. I haven't time to write much but am going to Harrisburg today if I can get my pass signed and will send you what money I can. Will keep \$2.00 for myself. I know I am rather extravagant but a few cents once in a while for milk goes pretty good and I want some stuff for cleaning clothes with so I can make more money

- (2) for you. I was in hopes to bring the money myself this time but it is impossible to get a furlough now. There are so many sick and in the Hospital and the Captain says there is no one to take my place a cooking as the man who done the cooking when I was out, is sick. Now Laura answer this as soon as you possibly can and let me know if you get. I will have the order made payable at Clayille as you can't get it at the lake. Good by, lots of love to you all and Kisses. Also remember me to all. Tell Mary I can't get any books just now but think there will be some before long. Tell me all about your

(Up side) visit and I you are having a good time. BLR

(Top of page 1 sideways) be sure and put the right address on Co. D, 3 Reg. N.Y.V.I. Camp Meade, Middletown, Pa.

August 24, 1898

Camp Meade

(4 sheets, 7 pages)

Dear Laura, Lillie & Ethel

I received 3 letters from you yesterday and one today and was glad to hear from you once more. I began to think you had given me up and was going to let me go entirely but I found it was not your fault. Our mail was in a terrible mix up for some time and that was the reason I did not get your letters. I received 6 letters yesterday and one from you today and expect another

- (2) tomorrow in answer to the money orders I sent you. Hope you had no trouble getting the money on them. Wish I could send you more and could of sent \$3.00 more but I kept it to blow in. But will send a dollar to Lillie for a birthday present as there is nothing I can get for her here that I think she needs and she can get something to wear or for school or any thing she likes. Or, if she don't need anything of the kind put it in the bank for she may need something when she can't get the money. Let her do as she likes with it if she wants to buy peanuts let her
- (3) get them. I worked for it and let her go and see what she will do with it. I can't say when I can come home. I asked the Captain today and he said he could tell anything about when he could go so I guess I will say no more about it. Others have had furloughs and stayed over their time and nothing has been done with them. And some have had to go to the guard

house for from 5 to 20 days at hard labor but as far as hard labor goes I get that now as the cooking all rests on my shoulders now. But the men say the grub is cooked the best since I have been at the head of the cooking that they have had in the last 2 months. But I shall get out as soon as I possible can as I don't

- (4) have as much time to wash when I am cooking as I do when I am drilling. President McKinley is coming to review the troops next Saturday so I suppose we will all have to turnout and tramp for about 2 hours for him. And when we get through he will say I have you under my thumb and I guess I will keep you until I want your vote and then you can do the best you can as I have no use for you now. Well my Dear, it is out of the question for me to come and go home with you. Wish you could come here on the excursion but it would cost so much. It cost \$6.00
- (5) to New York and return but don't know what it would cost from there down here (that is from Oswego). No I can't come now. The Officers think I would have to good a time. They have been home and they don't care for the men. One man came back this morning and his pass run out Sunday noon but nothing has been done with him. 2 more men went away with leave was gone two days and one night. They are free, but if I should do any thing of the kind, I would surely get the guard house. Major Hall is no better than the rest. I have no confidence in him any more. This war is a political and money making scheme for a few high muckety mucks and they are playing
- (6) their cards well. I wish you could come here and see the men eat and what they have to eat and then go and see the Officers or slave drivers eat and what they have to eat. They sit at a table and have all kinds of luxuries and where do they get it. They say they are paying \$5.00 a week for their board but it is not so. The men are forced to eat sow belly and hard tack and the luxury they should get are exchanged for something better for the man drivers. I have no love or honor for them only as we are forced to honor them here but when I get out of this outfit they can go well I won't say where
- (7) especially the Officers of Co. D. This country around here is the finest I ever saw. An Officer has just ordered the light put out so will have to do it as I won't have time to write any in the morning. I will close so good by. Kiss children for me. Remember me to all and lots of love to yourselves. B.L.R.

August 28, 1898

Camp Meade

(2 sheets, 4 pages)

Dear Wife & Children

I haven't received the letter I have been looking for yet and that is the one I sent the P.O. orders in. Haven't you got them yet? If you have let me hear from you at once as I am fretting about them. It is money that cost me to much hard work to loose so much of it. Well I haven't much to say but I am lonesome and tired. Have been on the jump ever since 4 o'clock this morning and it is nearly 9 now and Sunday at that. But Sunday is no better than any other day in

- (2) this outfit. The men have to eat just the same as any other day and as a general thing we have to make an extra effort so as to get as good a dinner as possible and then it is poor out of what we have to get. The most important thing I have to say tonight is send me something to eat. There is one of the men went home today that will come there. His name is Will Purdy and he lives down by the water works or reservoir and he said he would bring it. Send some fried cakes and a chocolate cake if you can and it won't be too heavy for him to carry. Put baby's hand in the top of the cake and I will kiss it when I get it as I guess that is as near as I can get to kissing
- (3) any of you for a time. As the two that went home today did not ask for a furlough until yesterday and I have been trying to get one ever since Father sent the money to me. I find the better a man tries to do his duty the fewer favors he gets so I guess I will get arrested and put in the Guard house and then maybe I can get a furlough home. Our Company is all broke up. There are so many sick. There is about 30 of Co. D in the hospital now. Some of them are very sick and others are just putting it on so they can get a furlough home for 30 days as that is what some of them get. I don't want to be sick but I do want to come home. But don't want to come back here again. Well, I will have to close as *(taps)* has sounded and will put out the light before the officer comes and orders it out as he did the other night and I will have no time to
- (4) write in the morning. Eddie Peavey is quite sick but please don't say anything about it so his folks will know it as he feels some better tonight. He is not in the hospital. If the Doctor was any good there would not be so much sickness but all they want is their money. They don't care anything about the men. Oh, I forgot to say Arthur Owens is the other man who went home perhaps you will see him. Well I will close so good by and let me hear from you all. Kisses for you all and God bless you all. From your miserable soldier Father & Husband. B.L.Rider. Middletown, PA. Camp Meade Co. D, 3 Reg, N.Y.V.I.

Sept. (1 - 4), 1898 *(No date on letter but best guess first week in September)*

- (First part of letter missing)**...Keep for me for I found it and it is just what I want to trim trees with when I get home from the war. Laura I want to tell you something about Ed and do as you think best about telling his folks. I heard today he was quite sick with a fever. He was taken to the division hospital the first of the week and the report is he has been sent to a hospital in Philadelphia. But I can't say for certain. There was 3 more sent to the hospital today and another goes in the morning.
- (2) There was a man named Thomas in our Company and he died yesterday. He was sent home. Had a relapse and died in a Syracuse hospital yesterday with a fever. Well Lillie, I haven't heard from you in some time but suppose you are busy taking care of Ethel. Hope she is well by this time and how does Ben like to have you back? Does he come home or stay with Walker? Well I must close and go to bed so good night and write soon. Has Purdy been there yet? Remember me to all and tell Mr. Edwards I can beat him one game for farm money or marbles. Well

Kisses for you all. Tell Charlie I will write to him soon and excuse me for not

(On side) writing before. B.L.R.

(Top of page upside down) Ed didn't want me to write any thing about his being sick.

(Top of first page upside down) Will try and find out where he is tomorrow and let you know but I think his Mother ought to know about him at least do as you think best about telling them.

September 6, 1989

Camp Meade

(2 sheets, 4 pages)

Dear Wife & Family

Received the box & tea yesterday. Many thanks for them and received your letters today found me well and hope this finds you the same. I was laid up Sunday with a headache but am all right now. I don't know when I have felt any more encouraged than I have for the last 4 or 5 days. I suppose it is because I expect to see you all some time in the course of another month. Everything is pretty *(sure)* now and the quicker I get

(2) of this the better I shall like it and I guess that is the case with the most of the men specially the privates. Well I will tell you all I can about Ed. I wrote to his mother all about him. He is in Philadelphia don't know how sick he is but he looked very bad when he left here. But it is reported that the Soldiers get the best of care and have any thing they want that will not hurt them. There was one of Co. D men here this morning that came from a Hospital there but Ed was not in the same one he was. He did not know Ed was there at all and there is no chance for me to go

(3) there. If there was, I would go and see him but the Captain says there is no one to cook if I should go away. But he did let me go Monday to Harrisburg to get the trunk that Owens brought the stuff from home in. Owens said it was to heavy to handle alone but I handled it alone and had to carry it 3 blocks on my back to get it on the street car. And then I had to pay 30 cents car fare for it besides my own car fare from here & return. The cake and peaches were all right and would have enjoyed them very much but some one stole the peaches and all the cookies but 2 and all the fired cakes but 3. The cake was all right they didn't touch it but the tea is going pretty fast. I am

(4) trying to doctor up 3 of the men who are in their quarters. Cooking something extra and giving them some tea now. The *(Dr. M)* knows I have tea. And last night he asked me to put in a little extra for him and I did so. Told him to help himself when he got ready and he did. And when I went for some there was none there so I told him if he wanted tea he had better buy a little and put in a little extra for me, but he hasn't got it yet. Well you will have to excuse this short letter as I am to near played out to sit up very late tonight and I have written to Mrs. Peavey so will close with love to all. Hope I can see you all soon. I will have some more money for you soon. Good night. BLR.

(Up side) Many kisses, love to you all.

September 9, 1898

Camp Meade

Dear Family

I haven't much news but will drop a few lines to you saying I am well & hope this will find you all the same but I have been sick for a few days. But am all right again now. I guess I was more scared than hurt. I was afraid I was coming down with the fever but am all right. I sent a box by express this morning. Did not pay charges as the express man did not know how much it would be but he said it would not be

- (2) over \$1.25 and I expect I will be home some time next week. And I wanted the box there when I came. Eddie Peavey's stuff is in there so perhaps you better not take anything out until I come and then it won't get mixed up. I hear we will leave here Sunday night but don't know how true it is. I have some money but will keep it for a few days and if we don't get out of here by Wednesday I will send by P.O. order to you. The 22 Reg. of Kansas left here this P.M. and I expect we will go next at least that is the report. Laura, don't try to wash any clothes until I come then I can help you as I understand we will get a 30 day furlough. And then we will have to report back at Troy N.Y. at that time

(Top of page 1 sideways) to be mustered out of the army. We drew our last issue of fresh meat this morning and that looks as if we would leave soon. Well I won't write any more. I think I will be home to tell you all I know soon. Heard from Ed yesterday he is doing well. Well good by. Kisses to you all. Hoping to see you soon. B.L.R.

Returning Home

From the Palladium Times, Oswego, New York

"The war soon was over and another Oswego unit, the 48th Separate Company, known as Company D. Third Regiment, New York Volunteers, returned from Camp Mead (Middletown, Pa.) in September. The returning soldiers were given a "royal welcome". A demonstration which in magnitude and enthusiasm surpassed anything of its kind in Oswego's history was given by the loyal, loving people to the self sacrificing young men who represented the City in Uncle Sam's Volunteer Army. The men who came home were all present and accounted for. There were 73 (plus three musicians) who were healthy, 14 on sick leave, 20 were left behind in hospitals (one soldier later died in December). They were all mustered out on December 1, their uniforms discarded and the volunteer soldiers dropped out of sight quickly".

Copies of
Original Letters

Monday Morning 9.30

Dear family & friends

We are here on the train
waiting to go to Hemsted
nothing of importance yet
had a good sleep last night
there was a big snow all along
the road until we left
Utica we did not stop
again until we got to
Albany we had Sandwich &
Coffee for supper & Coffee
& Sandwich for breakfast
in our comfort sack from
Mrs Cliphart we got
a pad Bible comb needles
thread buttons Chewing gum
pipe & tobacco looking
glass yarn Bandage pins

matches & soft envelopes pencil
and a number of other small
articles were going to start
now and I cant write any
more this time remembers
me to all

all well and feeling well
good by

B. L. K.

P.S.

Dont write until you
hear from me again

B. L. K.

Engine just jumped
the track no one hurt

Address Camp Black
Hempstead

Thank for the pictures
did not know they were
here until this morning

Camp Black
Dear family Tuesday
May 3 My Birth day
I am all right yet
I am on guard duty today
our company is under
special orders we are
all packed ready to start
in five minutes and are
under orders to that effect
there are 9,000 men here
had a good sleep last night
we are on a plain 15 miles
long & 13 miles wide and
can see from one end to
the other we are at the south
west corner the tents are
as straight as you can draw
a line we had sweet potatoes

1 pk. organ
1 egg - Butter
1 lb. butter
1 cup sweet milk
1 loaf corn
milk - 2 loaves
cream butter on
flour - 1 lb.
1 lb. sugar
1 lb. flour
1 lb. sugar
1 lb. flour
1 lb. sugar
1 lb. flour

coffee Bread & Butter & C
every one seems to be happy
we are drawing state pay
1.25 a day home Drums and
fifes going some where
all the time we had 2 hours
drill this morning
you will get all the
news concerning our
company in the Palladium
we have just had received
orders to get ready to move
don't know where we are
going

address as above

Good by

B. L. R.

B. C. Rides
write to our folks and
give them my address
and tell them to write
to me but do not look
for an answer very soon

address
Camp Black 4th Separate Co
Long Island
Company D

Camp Black May 5th 98
Dear family and all
I am in my tent have just
had my dinner & have been
on guard duty since 9 o'clock
Wednesday morning so I did
not have time to write yesterday
we are all well and happy
as can be under the circumstances
we don't know how long we
will stay here you must not
look for a letter from me
every day as my supply
may run out but if any
thing turns up of important
I will let you know we are
busy the most of the time
it is in company drill in
the morning 6.30 Regimental

drill at 8 o'clock for 2 hours
Battalion at 2 P.M. every man
is obliged to be in his tent
at 10 o'clock P.M. lights out at 11
There are 13 in our tent & had
the first yard was today
since I left home not one
of our men have had a letter
from home yet I guess they
are all glad to get rid of us
This place is overrun by
peddlers the boys will take
a mans rig away from
them and run it in camp
take what they have with
the horse and let it go
cant think of much to write
today I am too tired and
sleepy to think of any thing
I wish you could see us as
we are here it is a sight
there is somewhere about

a thousand a crew that is
covered with tents and is
level so we can see from one
end to the end a number of
our men run guard last night
and are under arrest today
none of Minnetts have been in
trouble yet I am the first
of Minnett boys to serve as
guard. We get lots of papers
received the Conway paper today
for the first
I promised to write to
Jim McLaughlin tell
him when you see him
I will do so when I am
feeling better than I do
today write when you
can let me know if any
thing happens
love to all both laborer and
all our letters if he wants to

Wednesday morning
 have just been to breakfast all
 well & received a letter from
 Charles Smith last night if
 you get a chance tell him or
 send word to him that Stefie
 was rejected and there is no
 sickness in camp and that
 we get all we want to eat
 such as it is it is not pie
 cake and the like but is good
 solid food good enough for
 any poor man to live on & will
 write to him soon.

Lillie you must not scold
 Ben tell him to be good and
 I will send him some Spaniard
 meat.

how are the chickens come in
 an and have you set any
 more hens

I will call sounded good by

Kiss Baby for me also your
mother and hope for my
return

Belvidere
remembers the address
Company D 3rd Regt
Camp Black Horse Island

I am a soldier for 2 years
 been a soldier to get a little to eat
 not know what to do of a soldier
 am well and all night but will
 as there is nothing to say tonight
 my mother tell her she must not
 that if she tells dont say for me
 what to say to you about Willie
 taking music lessons I should
 like to have her take lessons right
 along if we can stand the bill
 I think Charlie has done pretty
 well to get the side hill planted and
 work so much nights have you
 set out the geraniums yet and had
 the flower seed come up & the
 dahlia I think Ben must think
 a great deal of the baby when
 wish I could see her if I am gone
 two years she will not know me
 at all. get one of my pictures I had
 taken the day I left and show it
 to her and tell her who it is I would
 like one myself but cant afford it
 you can get one or some just as
 you wish they were taken over

I am a soldier for 2 years
 been a soldier to get a little to eat
 not know what to do of a soldier
 am well and all night but will
 as there is nothing to say tonight
 my mother tell her she must not
 that if she tells dont say for me
 what to say to you about Willie
 taking music lessons I should
 like to have her take lessons right
 along if we can stand the bill
 I think Charlie has done pretty
 well to get the side hill planted and
 work so much nights have you
 set out the geraniums yet and had
 the flower seed come up & the
 dahlia I think Ben must think
 a great deal of the baby when
 wish I could see her if I am gone
 two years she will not know me
 at all. get one of my pictures I had
 taken the day I left and show it
 to her and tell her who it is I would
 like one myself but cant afford it
 you can get one or some just as
 you wish they were taken over

Dear Wife & children
 I have just received your welcome letter
 and was very glad to hear from you
 it found me well and eating well
 for dinner and that is no fun to
 eat enough for 16 men and send
 them all I have charge of
 Commissary department for our company
 now I have 1 man over me and three
 under me I am busy the most of
 the time I had a bit beef boiled
 potatoes coffee hard rock onions and
 cheese. Baked beans yesterday I dont
 have any more guard duty now
 and no drilling to do now and I
 have from 10 prisoners to keep
 during the most of the time you
 were today only four arrests last

(23)

I do not care for it nor haven't
 drank any only once and that was
 some hot whiskey one night when
 I was not feeling well I think
 I told you about my being sick
 but am all right now I wish
 you could come and see it makes
 me feel home sick to see other people's
 friends come to see them but more
 come to see me but I know the cost
 would be too great for you to do so
 Tell Charlie my letters are to
 him as much as you wish to
 tell him I have but little time
 to write or I would write to him
 I have written to Jim twice Charlie
 I write some to me and you will
 him and write to Father once and
 told him to send his letters to you
 and you would send them on to
 me so we could both get the
 benefit of them. I don't know

Page 2

night but none from our company
 yesterday was a very rainy day
 also last night so there was not
 many that were the guard
 it is a cloudy day today but
 don't rain The men here talk
 a great deal about Duke and the
 others too but Duke is the worst
 he done so much talking before
 he came down here I had a long
 talk with Major Hall yesterday
 he says there has been money raised
 for the support of the soldiers
 families and you should have
 your share if you need it let
 me know we haven't received our
 pay yet but as soon as I do I will
 send it to you and then if I need
 any thing I will let you know
 money is very scarce in camp
 now there is lots of beer & whiskey
 drank here but am happy to say

and they only get destroyed after
they are read so I sent them home
of life to have him read them if
I mean to read tell him of think of
him every day as if he was the
only friend I had out side of
my family I think of my wife
and children a great many times
a day I would like it very much
if I were where I could step in
and see them today if you imagine
I see her at the table with her
face covered with potatoe and
grease and to see by the side of
her hiding the potatoe on the
inside of her face and her mother
on the other side and to hear
in his place in front of the
stove with the cat in the chair

don't let folks say for me
your mother and good by
go to both for me for anything I
earn for I don't think me will ever
will come in time unless I see
I long for my mother and my
I am so glad you are here
Camp Black Thursday
My dear wife & children
I received a letter from you last
night that was written by you
you must be sure and put the
no of the Regiment as they are
apt to get lost our Reg is 103
there is a company D in nearly
every Reg. We received orders to
go to Lunenburg Virginia was
to go today but it is raining
so hard it has been put over
untill tomorrow at 2 o'clock
so don't write again untill
you hear from me again
it rained all night and hard to
some of the tents are afto at
ours is all right yet but the
water is coming in

May (24), 1898

the good by and hope for all
to hand of you will go into work
I am not to the skin now
and have to get out. To see
about dinner soon the boys
made a kick this morning
because they did not get much
of a breakfast & worked until
half past eleven last night
packing up stuff to move will
have to unpack some of it for
supper have enough for dinner
out we had only hard tack and
coffee for breakfast some of
the boys thought they ought to
have something extra because it
rained 2 of the cooks or army
assistants would not get out
and help about the breakfast so I
had to get out in the rain and
see to it myself and got good and
wet but I have a change of
clothing when it clears off
that are done don't worry about me

you were good and you were
very good for the boys
you were very good for the boys
for I am all night & done a small
washing yesterday towels handkerchiefs
&c and they are wet yet don't know
when they will get dry there is no
starching and ironing here it is
now get them dry if you can and
put them on when you have to &
send you a small box yesterday
in case of Minette's shade cloth
company so it would go to
Minette and you would not have to
go to Orange for it if did not pay
or charge because I had no money
you will find hard tack books
and 2 sets of cross guns send one
set to S. Louis I would have sent them
from but could not get any thing
to pack them in the box I was for
Charles to read and let him
keep them if you don't want them
I also sent one to him by mail
last night we have lots of them

^{Address}
Dunrover Vermont
3 Regiment N. Y. Vol's
Company D

Dunrover May 29-98

Dear Wife & Children

We broke camp yesterday
Saturday at 9 o'clock arrived
in Long Island City at
2 o'clock took the ferry boat
and was transferred to
Jersey City where we took
the train at 6 o'clock and
arrived at Philadelphia
at 11.30 arrived in Washington
at 5 o'clock this morning
and at Dunrover 9 miles
out of Washington and just
over the line in Virginia
at 6 o'clock after which
we had a 5 mile march
in heavy marching order
where we got here

more pretty well faged
it is berry warm and
there is a hard thunders
sown raging now and
some of the boys are out
in it with out a rag on
near in our tents with
our guns and the light
ring if flashing and
the thunders crackling I am
standing up and writing
the matter is running
right through our tent
we have nothing but the
ground to lay on but we
have our rubber blankets
to put under us we have
regiments from all over
the United States. Well
I must close for this time
spell I mean love with
two as

I would like to see you
all tonight kiss the children
for me lots of times
send my address to
Charles Smith &
Rob Peary as they want
to write to me
Good night my
Dear wife & children
write as soon as you
can for I am so home
sick to see you I will
write again as soon as
I can took a bath
today will have to wash
tomorrow will go
by once more my love
Kisses for you all
Ble Kidder

and slapping
 out doors on the
 ground with
 clothes on and
 a stone for a
 pillow or down
 at all.
 Making bread
 I have to see to
 the supply so
 will have to
 close I had
 something to
 say to you
 This morning
 but it is
 I want one
 more
 I have to see to
 the supply so
 will have to
 close I had
 something to
 say to you
 This morning
 but it is
 I want one
 more

was ready to sign articles of
 peace but dont know any thing
 about it out can hear lots here.
 What is Will McCreays address
 if you know write to him and
 tell him where I am and may be
 he will come and see me it is
 not far to Washington from
 here I dont know where Ed is
 I havent seen him since morning
 but is around some where well
 to ansa my Dear I am well and
 as happy as can be under the
 circumstances but knowing what
 you do about soldier life I dont
 think I would volunteer again
 although it is not hard work
 as far as work goes but it is
 very unpleasant to be away

dont come I was here
 from friends and
 from friends and

tell you all
 my address
 and tell him
 what we did
 you get the
 a package
 and did to get
 the book
 good by Miss
 children for
 one way
 coming I had
 30 subscribers
 me in your
 prayer
 I am
 with you
 always
 B. L. Kinder

Dear Wife & children
 I wrote a few lines to you last
 night but as you will see it
 was under difficulties. It is
 very warm here to day and the
 men feel the heat very much
 as it has been so cold and wet
 when we were there is soldiers
 here from all over the M.S. a Reg
 from Missouri landed here today
 there is no telling how many
 men there are here but to give
 a guess I should say there
 was 800,000 to 1,000,000 men
 the camp covers hundreds of acres
 but it not level as it was on
 S. G. and there are lots of woods
 the lightning struck a number

Remember me to Mr Edwards
of trees near our camp last night
the men are digging ditches and cutting
under brush in the woods making
roads digging a well sink holes for
slope and most every thing you
could think of one of our men went
to Camps last Friday to his
Father's funeral said he was
going to Minnetta & told him to
go and see Charley and he said
he would. We are all well in our
company except once in a while
a head ache. A man in one of the
Massachusetts Reg died this morning
cause not known 3 Spanish
spies have been captured one of
the escaped and was found
hanging by the neck to a tree
in the woods this morning
it is also reported that some
one from the Michigan Reg
was lost martialled and shot

Remember me to Mr Edwards
I have the address (good)
this morning at 10 am
I am at my old job but need
to do a little more work as one of
the men has been taken from our
gang we will have boiled
rice for supper all of our water
has to be boiled before we can
use it to drink the salt thing
is to cool it again after boiling
I have the picture before me as I
am writing it seems as if you
were all looking right at me
and I think the baby is making
a bow to me Billie is laughing
and you look as if you were going
to kiss me any way you all look
very pleasant and good to me oh
how I wish I could see you news
papers are scarce here haven't seen
one since we landed here so don't
know what the war news is but
I did hear to day that Spain

Remember me to Mr Edwards
Remember me to Mr Edwards
Remember me to Mr Edwards

why didn't you
 should you be
 his letter to me tell
 me to go to the
 and give him
 the address
 course to going
 kind but do you
 think it would
 be better if you
 want to go there
 I don't know but
 certainly don't
 think me - well
 I don't want any
 money well not
 a little to buy
 some things
 + paper & cloth
 and was to see
 how some of the
 boys have been
 doing lately
 I hope they are
 all well

Camp Alger D. M. M. horses & a gun
 Dear Mother & children - been writing in long
 I received your letter just before dinner
 and was glad to hear from you but were
 sorry you are discouraged you must not
 let your feelings get away from you
 keep cheerful and think of the time
 when I shall come home which I think
 will be some time. am very sorry to hear
 that Willie is sick hope she is all
 right by this time how I would like
 to see you all the while will not look
 the same to me as she did when I
 came away the last time I saw her
 was the Sunday I came back she was
 asleep in the cot in one bed room I
 kissed her no less than a dozen times
 think I will send another look to Charles

the money
 I have
 the
 money

21
I have never in my life
more felt your hand than
getting up a week and
knowing that you were
and tried to make her up but she would
not by my kissing her how I wish I had
pictures up now I have your pictures when
I can look at them while I am writing
they look better to me every time I look at
them I wish you could afford to have them
all taken together with Bessie in and send
them to me but as money is so scarce
perhaps you had better not but nothing
would do me more good. I am in the
same position as was the last time I
wrote dont worry about my working
to hard I am at work from 4 in the
morning untill 7 at night
but my work is not hard labor it
is more head work than anything
else but I am bringing the worst of the
time. I think you done just right to get
for money. My Hall says the money
is there for the end of the soldiers
I have only one more letter to write to

every thing we had by us for
 I don't need any clothes as I have over
 the things that I have in the
 kept near a shirt for a couple of weeks
 until it gets dirty and then they
 will throw it away rather than
 wear it I have my new blue shirt
 knickerd away in my back and I have
 2 that I wear every day one I wear
 one I have kept a red one I had a
 whipsaw and lots of other stuff they can
 get a bag with out I see by the paper that
 the boys are bare footed but that is not
 true some of them have pins shoes but
 if they could find this money for
 a hour instead of the business I had
 married they would be better off and
 besides the Government allow them
 by law for the first six months for
 clothing shoes to and they will go
 with out such things for the sake of
 getting the money to blow in your
 going to do the same thing except
 the blowing in part and I will
 blow that part to my D as our
 heart who said it worse than I

either he left or I don't
 and I think it will come out all right
 I will send the money on soon as I can
 get it full. Charles just to write I will
 I am glad to hear he is so kind to you
 and to his work his mind is things
 it does not seem matter that my little
 thing is something instead of making
 himself a sound with me but
 have it. The man who went here
 today I don't know how long
 last night. It is very warm here
 its in the sun and I'll be in the shade
 yesterday at about our experiment
 I have 4 mules and 11 army
 we own a team of mules is 4 mules
 and cost any one is to have a team of
 one wagon. Mule Sam has 12,000
 mules and a wagon to every team
 of 4 mules stationed at P...
 have a good one in my mind
 to change for the medicine. I am a
 when you get the money for me and
 get yourself a new one when
 yourself a new hat I had and

1

Dear Mr. [unclear] June 6 98
I can't [unclear] children [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
Tuesday afternoon 2 P.M. [unclear]
[unclear] and my [unclear] [unclear]
it for a while we will talk with
you for a while. It seems getting
a little short on our rations and
I have to figure pretty close to
make them hold out we have
two more days yet before we
get any more and all I have
left in one side of bacon about
50 loaves of bread & 450 lbs of hard
tack 10 lbs coffee. we have no potatoes
rice or canned goods of any kind
we received a cheese from [unclear]
[unclear] on night of an afraid

we will go hungry before we get an
other one we get fresh beef every
three days we got some today
and have it all on the fire
roasting now and have to keep
moving and looking at it to
see that it dont burn it is
quite a job to cook for 24 men
we have 3 bbls of flour but it is
of no use to us as we can only
make flour gray out of it we dont
have sour milk butter and the like
to make biscuits we have baking
powder but none of us know how
to use it we have to bring our water
about 2 miles in goats and barrels
but there is a steam drill just
come into our camp this after
noon so I think we will have
water soon soon. we dug a well
and got water but is pumped
dry the most of the time some one

2
 as at all the time it is about
 15 feet deep and has about 10 feet
 of water in it every morning but
 it dries out long when they stop
 for it to get back. For me here
 plenty of water to wash in there
 but I creep about 200 feet from me
 it from 6 o'clock in morning
 until 9 at night. A horse I mean
 has been sick and was in the
 hospital but came home this
 morning but is not very well
 yet says he would die if he stay
 there long says it is the worst
 place he ever seen to put a sick
 person they performed an operation
 on a man that Sunday and the
 man was moved and died
 in 4 minutes after they covered
 on him out of my view and there
 more sick with cholera here
 I mean says a well man can
 go there and he will be sick
 inside of 24 hours the man

3
 what I shall do about it he says
 I will have a small case today
 and will get out of my present
 trouble cooking will not have
 to do any thing only tend to horses
 and plow at concerts and dress
 parade grand march and
 inspection the latter comes about
 once in ten days or 2 weeks but
 will not occur on Sunday any
 more the officers get a calling
 from the war department for
 making the men get out
 for inspection & dress parade
 on Sunday. I haven't known what
 Sunday was since I left here
 when we were at Camp Blood
 it rained every Sunday and
 a week ago last Sunday it rained
 here in camp and most all days
 get our tents pitched and a place
 to sleep we have to sleep on the
 ground with nothing but
 a rubber blanket under us

and only an army blanket was
 in it so quilt and her night
 but we dont suffer any from the
 cold as it is so warm in the
 day that it takes a good while
 if its night to cool an object it is
 very quiet here in the morning
 you hear the whiff of muskets and
 the rattling of guns all night
 if not our rounds in them to them
 there is a splendid view over
 it no clearest no light as day
 but the stillness of the morning
 is disturbed by the firing of a
 few Muskets over in a Camp that
 has 40 of them in one camp
 one of the guard had one of them
 about midnight and he was
 so scared that he left his post
 and ran for the officers tent
 the officer gave him a cutting
 down for leaving his post

dont get any thing to eat with
 good food and then there are
 so many there and the weather
 is so warm that there is an
 awfull stink there all the time
 and the men will work a
 day or more out of the camp
 and the same with the women
 that a man from the 2nd Reg
 of Whisking on caught some disease
 in his eye and is now blind
 and will be the remainder of his
 days. I sent a letter to the 118th
 Band this morning. The officers of
 our Regiment are talking of going
 against a band out of Ambrose
 of the 1st Regiment. They dont want
 for our last night he wants one
 to go in the band but he would
 so many times I would never
 get another band of 2000
 out of them and what have

And sent him back at once and
 told him not to let it happen
 again. Well, C. has got a
 lot of good winter under clothing that
 I have got from the boys of our company
 which is a burden to me but could not
 see it go to waste which I will send you
 if you want it. I had enough today
 the charges on it I have no money on
 I would send it and pay the charges
 myself for what you are doing for
 my dear ones at home it is all clean
 and all right as far as many things
 of the kind about it I have more
 pairs drawers 3 good wrappers 4 or
 5 shirts I have one fine shirt &
 light black ones and one heavy blue
 army woolen shirt one of our men
 was going to throw it away
 because it was dirty and he would
 not wear it I have washed all
 of them out but probably I can
 could do a better job on them for you
 now if you don't want them say so
 and I will have them away or you

With Sister and Ben ask Ben if he
 remembers me and tell him I would
 like his photograph and write to Miss
 Brown and tell her that I would like
 to hear from her if your mother does
 not object and I like her very much
 I get some times to hear from someone
 I don't think she would cost.
 Now you must be well and with
 love every time mother does it does
 me lots of good to hear from you as
 well as from your mother do you
 ever go up to your mother's one
 to I am in the hospital & had Monday
 when you see them also in church
 folks and long but folks and all
 the rest do you ever see I am as
 hear from them I suppose they will
 is all up in good shape by the
 time did the tomatoes & cabbage plant
 around is any thing and did you
 sell all of them did the flower seeds
 in the boat come up are there any
 preachers and did the library books
 up on the bill that I felt out last
 fall love

Mrs Knott I think I could trust you
 a good deal of the sort if you will
 come down here I will try you a game
 I think I see just about how he
 has enjoyed himself here you know
 were what on his own which where
 money was made I joined the 18
 deposite company with G. W. G. in my
 head necessities more to find one of
 whom you are born of some business
 I suppose the world are left I suppose
 Mr K is working every day
 How I tell you little Bess a maid to
 you and I want she be a good girl
 and reward you. Can you give it I will
 see you I imagine I see you a great
 many times but suppose you dont
 look the same you had the last time
 I saw you you was a sleep and
 I wanted to wake you up but you
 were taking to much trouble to do
 that if I could trust you I think I

more than if we have to move as it
 is to much to say could not get
 them in any book any way of your
 dont want them and you know of
 any one who does for paying things
 till I can let me know and give it
 and then at once
 How I like my I am however you
 getting along your was with the best
 I had from horse hope this is a sort
 the case more of think of you all every
 day even Bess the ten chickens or eggs
 the little chickens amount to fine ones
 by the time see the white ones got
 from Bell and see if you want her
 a nice I look of your what big horse
 when I get home which I think will
 know him in the course of a year
 by the way things had and a hat I
 know around here even I think
 so imagine I can see you running
 around the good to going with you

13

to have once it would such a pleasure
 to me but such is the life of a
 soldier & I will have to go when I receive
 Sam sends me word till he gets through
 with me and by that time you will
 not be the same little bump you
 was laying in your cot the day I
 left if I was where I could get
 my hands on you now I don't
 think you would sleep long
 Well my Dear you seem to care
 but on this sheet but you are
 not the least by any means I
 am sorry to say I lost an army
 for you yet but I hear that the
 mess are being payed off or fast
 as they can get around to them
 of course we will be on the march
 and like a dogs tail but you will
 get every cent of it when I get it
 unless I see a few shillings to buy
 writing material with the
 stamps you sent me was
 stolen out of my pocket before
 I had them on how I reported it

Dear wife we have had no coffee and
 this is the nicest time of the day we
 have our dishes all washed and scrub
 all done up for the night for
 breakfast we will only have had
 back bacon and coffee with out sugar
 or milk we have had no milk for
 a long time but coffee is a very
 good if it has sugar in the region
 we are on does for a while and it is
 very quiet in the cliff front
 street the Regiment has just
 received a new flag and one of
 the companies has gone to head
 quarters after it there will be
 a great yell when it comes in
 every one is stretching their necks
 to see it come it was presented
 by some organization and is
 made of silk and trimmed with
 gold colored ribb has come to
 Coloss and there is a great fan
 now all through the Regiment
 the men are all like little
 boys and every one wants to hold it

1
June 9 98



CAMP ALGER

Falls Church, Va. June 9 1898

Dear wife & family when I say how much I love
 with the rest of you
 I sent you a letter yesterday morning telling you
 I had sent you a check that was my pay from the
 Government I sent the money by Sargent Dunne
 if you haven't yet you will get it soon he was
 all ready to go when the first Sargent came to
 me and put another five dollar bill in my
 hand and told me it was a present from the
 company for doing the best I could for the boys
 and if I could not keep the tears back I thought
 that they thought as much of me and the good it
 would do my Dear ones at home now use it for the
 things that you all need or had am sorry I did not
 send you the other 20 cents as I made cents yesterday
 washing clothes for one of the men and think I can
 make money enough to get what I need in that
 way and few days a little more will send it to you
 as fast as I get a dollar or if I can get 25c for
 strawberries & nuts + 10c for tobacco yesterday now
 use that money for your selves and for something

that you need to watch especially the 8500. Yesterday was
 a hard day for me one of the messes washing for me was
 laid out and the other was not feeling well so I had
 nearly all the work to do beside I had some extra to
 do the boys & bring things to me to keep for them
 such a berries with cherries and butter to keep
 cool for them so yesterday I dug a hole in the
 ground 4 feet long 2 feet wide and 3 feet deep and
 a lot to put in it with shavers in and put this
 stuff in it so it will keep until they call for it
 it is an awful bother for they want their stuff
 just when I am the busiest at meal time and
 last night I told them to help themselves and
 some of them took their own and some of the others
 and there was blame for it so I will have to
 tend to it myself or to the blame Captain
 left told me this morning if there was any more
 stuff taken out that did not belong to the one
 who took it to fill the hole up and let them take
 care of their own stuff he also said some of them
 did not know when we were doing them a favor
 the inspector said yesterday morning that our
 kitchen was the best arranged and cleanest one
 in the Regiment he says arranged every way
 and we have to hustle and get the dishes washed
 and swept up before he comes

3



CAMP ALGER

Falls Church, Va. _____ 1898

Some of the boys go to Washington every day but I will not go as it costs money and we need easy rest now some of the men who got their pay night before last went to bed with out a cent last night they were playing Poker all day yesterday and last evening and they had one young fellow from our company lost all he had in about an hour and went away crying after his last cent was gone the man who got the most of it gave him twelve and he sat down and went to playing again this morning as soon as he swallowed his breakfast don't know how he come out another man in our company was given \$10.00 by the boys because he had a wife and four children at home he also went to playing poker and lost ours so the boys say they will give him no more but will send it to his family but they will not send any money for me because I don't know how to use it when I have it for I shall send it to my Deacons at home before I have a chance to get rid of it and I want you to realize for your selves and not tell that of

I don't think you could get it well it was Mrs. Brown
she said she hoped you would not get mad at
her as she had been thinking of it for some
time & will write to her today if I can get time
I don't know whether I told you I received a letter
from Columbus as he said that they sent me a
box May 2^d but I haven't received it yet he
sent it to Tracy Black. Well my I can't
have to close and get to work for it in time I had
the dinner a get water will have to get some today
had to get some out of it. I wish I could get
breakfast at home some morning and sit myself
up with her face & hair full of photos are you sorry
that I got Ben now or he look out for the baby some
well I wish I hope you can get what you want
for a child and some honey wish I could see you

at the children's day or some morning and the money and
I don't think you could get it well it was Mrs. Brown
she said she hoped you would not get mad at
her as she had been thinking of it for some
time & will write to her today if I can get time
I don't know whether I told you I received a letter
from Columbus as he said that they sent me a
box May 2^d but I haven't received it yet he
sent it to Tracy Black. Well my I can't
have to close and get to work for it in time I had
the dinner a get water will have to get some today
had to get some out of it. I wish I could get
breakfast at home some morning and sit myself
up with her face & hair full of photos are you sorry
that I got Ben now or he look out for the baby some
well I wish I hope you can get what you want
for a child and some honey wish I could see you

June 9, 1898
2nd letter



CAMP ALGER.

Falls Church, Va. June 9 1898

Dear home & children

I sent a letter to you this morning but there has
been nearly 12 hours since then so will give you
another talk tonight as I have been doing the
most of the day I have something to show
for it I have done quite a lot of washing today
and have enough money to get a new one
as she said she wanted one for child's use
I will want you to get one for her as it is
the only thing I can do for her I have one dollar
that I got for washing for the mess today
and there is 30 cents my doll got today that
I used to get my doll and had a nice
washing for tomorrow I have quite a lot
of soap & darning needles & I will send
them to you I have got the Charles can that they
if you want to get them to him as you can
keep them until I come home which I think
will surely be some time before long at
least I hope so I am sick of cooking &
a clean messer was got out of it.

hope you are well & happy - I have no more news
of cooking and washing dishes for 4 sometimes
think I have want to see any thing to eat
we got 80 lbs of fresh beef and had to cook it for
dinner got to know about those quarters of an
pound to fry steak for dinner we had steak
boiled potatoes bread & coffee for dinner and
for supper we had tomatoes boiled bread and
cheese coffee and for breakfast we will have
boiled potatoes boiled rice & bread & coffee
Monday if have 2 pair of pants to wash and
press which if I fall get 50 cts a pair and
if will send it to you as soon as I get it
enclosed you will find 8 spoons covered
today and if told you what to do with it
and please do as I wish you to write this and
you can do as you like with the rest one
Thank you Willie for your letter it does lots of
good for me to get them from my 2 so's daughter
how I would like to see you don't you think the
baby would write a few lines to and bring him
could if you would put some mud on ~~a~~ sheet of
his feet and a sheet of paper where he could step on
it try it and all well my love it is so
dark you hardly see so I will close for now
The children is well and healthy & Beth wants
your picture for her and if see it let of I will
send - I will send this with out stamp because it is

sent to you by the
mail - I will send it
with out stamp because it is

from having a
a box of paper
you told me that
Count was gone
and I thought it
was his letter
had the stamp
in or I received
them both the
same day but
now need a letter

from his wife
will good night
Kiss baby
for you
and tell her
also



and tell her
for you self
your kinship
Boston
Good night

Falls Church, Va. June 15 1898

My Dear Wife & Children

I have just finished my work and will talk with you
a few minutes although I am very tired tonight
I have been working all day except when I was
getting my meals for the men I have been alone
today the company was all out on Provo ground
except the sick ones and that was 24 men
there is but very few that have not been
sick I am one of the few I have not had a
sick minute except a cold since I left home
and allowing me to be the judge I do more
work than any one man I have done the cooking
a number of days and tending to my work
beside the other cooks have been sick and I could
not get any detail to help me as there was so
many sick and they had to have the well
ones to drill so I have to go it alone but I
begin to think I can stand most any thing
now I am as black as a nig but there are
others well I guess I have grown led enough
I will write something else on the other side

I sent you some money a while ago but have
hard nothing from it yet and I am anxious
to hear from you as well as from the money
I sent you as 10.00 bill and 205.00 gold piece by
Sergeant I mean and the next day I sent you
as one dollar bill in a letter and I have \$7.00
more in money and there is and there is 28.00
owing to me and I have let Eddie have a dollar
I will send you what I have as soon as I
hear you got the other and would like to send
it as soon as possible for I know you need
all you can get and I dont want to keep it
here for fear I will lose it and I have to work
to hard for it to lose any I have spent 30c
20 for milk and 10 for tobacco but will be
carefull not to spend any more for luxuries as
I know you need it worse than I need milk
Well say dear ones I will stop for this time
as I am tired to write and I have 4 washings
to do tomorrow I sent you a box this morning
by freight so you will not get it for a
number of days I did not pay the freight
as I did not go to the depot myself I have
lots to say to you but will wait until
next time may be you will get some tomorrow
after noon and they will write to tell you
the other little angle does tell but any difference

little and pay the nurse
Eaton the girl that the board in
one of your side and nurse too
as he gives me good health
and lots of work to carry away
for my Dan over at home. so
arrived so early today since
dinner I did not get a chance
to do any thing before dinner
after waiting to you so here
around for tomorrow but
not arrived but I think
it will come in in the
morning I did not get
any money today but
I have little stuff. have
yet got lots of work from
with the board nurse I got
some ammonia and a sponge

to take your out of your will
today I sent to washington
first by one of our boys it
cost me 25 cents so you are
I have that you sent of
that more fast go would
a better job and away he
will get early a mail sent
to prove that I pay for it
don't know whether I told
you how much I get for
cleaning pants or just get
will tell you again soon
for pants and for flowers
and can clean a girl up sent
on him and a half the men
one willing to pay it and
all satisfied with my work
but it is quite a job to

the same kind but to do it on the
 of our nation general
 + folks Bible
 would be in the tension of
 and that means lots of work
 for me for you know it takes
 a lot of stuff to feed 67
 men. So I said well my Dear
 you'll have to lose mail and
 I have another book in the
 rooming with that does he
 have to pay any more
 postage either. Well Miss
 for you all good night
 let me hear as ever when
 get this if it is only a mail
 so I want think it is good
 to see once in a while. Good night

better spending
 will then form
 do so some
 on the
 I did tell you to some
 please do so as I may come
 home some time and by so do
 I want to see them. I need a
 letter from them today they
 are all well he says he would
 like to be with me if he did
 not have as much to do.
 Hello Beans letter was all
 right I think he done well
 I think he will be
 I think the lady has given
 a lot more of a way
 by the sign of her letter. I
 had heard did you get the

writing to you about you
if you have gone to school a
part of it then in a year
conversing in the morning
with some more girls than
that if you see him you will
send it and you must show
with him as if think he is
very kind to you all and
you must be good to him
tell him what you want to
have and make himself
very glad you are
going to school take this
as a reward hope you will
have a good time. will you
take him with you if you
forget what will be do without
the book, we have a time

But here and he is coming
all over and a very happy
whole of him writing he is
black and white but mostly
white and one think every
thing of him he is now all
around and just don't let
him up at all one of the
boys took him 3 sheets and
let it right and let him
go and he came right back
and sit a looking he has a
book and makes the sheet and
he says that the most of
the time in the day but
is all over at night and
only in the morning
Well you will have a good day
tomorrow as we just got



CAMP ALGER

Falls Church, Va.

1898

Thursday morning

Good morning all it is a poor day for drying
clothes so will adjourn and talk with you a while
and wash later if it clears up and if not I will
put it over until tomorrow although I can't
think of as much as I could last night but
will write something to comfort me a bit by
mail will find cakes & cookies in it but they
were pretty well broken up but they were good
and very much eaten dont send anything that
will spoil if you send any thing at all Mrs
Peary said she was going to send a box to
Ed so if you want to put any thing in put
some fried cakes lemon and a package of tea
but dont send them because I want them
you had better use the money for your own
use as I am getting used to army grub and
dont know what good grub is that has no
ashes or dirt in it we get a lot of such
stuff here. I have not been out of camp since
we came here most all of the men have been

4
to Washington but I have not but guess
you would if I could find Wall McLeray
so I could get my dunnies out of him at only
costs 46 cts for the round trip from here
for a Soldier. does Albert Goodier live there
now. We have plenty of water now and
good water too there are 3 drilled wells in
our Regiment now and none of them is less
than 60 feet deep and one of them is 180.
One of our men has gone to see to his
mother's funeral Peter is his name. We
have 41 Prisoners in our Reg the most of them
are under arrest for being drunk but the
money is getting scarce and there wont be
so many drunk then. Someone stole my
coat yesterday and it will go hard with him
when it is found the Captain is looking for
it and says he will surely get it. Eddie
has just got another dollar of me only night
before last I let him have a dollar and now
another suppose I spent my money like
that what would you say. I have 2 bundles
of clothes by my side that has come since
I lay on the site and guess if had better
stop writing and get at them. Well I'll be
I am glad you got your sack for Christmas
day



CAMP ALDER

Falls Church, Va. 1898

5

did you have a good time did Ethel go if
suppose she had to speak a piece didnt she
I wrote a letter to the band some time ago
but havent heard from any of them I suppose
they think I am only a soldier and am
not waste writing to now to tell you must
be a good girl and tell your mother to get you
a wheel and I will try to earn money enough
washing to pay for it dont think you will
have to work and earn it yourself as long
as I can work and earn it for you if she
can get one and pay 50 or amount I will pay
the five doll ars as long as I can get washings
to do I suppose the baby is into every thing
now running away and pulling the flowers
up and every thing else mischievous
you dont know how I would like to see
you all does the baby eat potato with her
hands yet and put it in her hair Well
the sun is coming out and I will close
and go to washing remember me to all

and be a good girl and help your mother
all you can if you a bowl in the pot for
Baby a button for you and books for
Charlie & Anna please save the old letters
if you see the box wonder why Father dont
write to me but if you write to him and
tell him to write send my address
will good by and lots of kisses for you
all Anna if you can do as you like with the
clothes give them to Charlie or keep them
just as you like some of them are not
washed nearly clean as I did not have time
it would be a good plan to wash all of
them when you get time will good
by again with lots of love to you + Charlie
would write more but have to go to work
remember me to all

B. B. R.

June 15
1

what they call Gen. Herkell
day and the other Regiments
are celebrating in great
shape we can see fireworks
and hear canons all around
it is like the 4 of July
only there is fire work in
every direction Bands
playing and men shouting
and hollering it was on this
day of the month the 17th
the battle of Brinkers Hill
was fought and it is
only 2 miles from our
Regiment and inside the
camp the camp is 7 miles
square the old Halifax
Resident is in sight of
us is only about 1/2 a

mile away lots of the boys
has pieces of Brick wood
stone and nails out of
the mines if have not
been over there yet but
think I will go Sunday
if I can get away from
my work Sunday is
no different than any
other day to the Squan
gang as the cooks are
called there is services
here every Sunday morning
evening & Thursday night
but I dont get my work
done in time to go unless
have been to the Thursday
evening services 2 but
they are nearly out

I think I will go to
Washington Sunday if
I can get away as I wont
have any washing to do that
day if I can find Will
it wont cost me much as
I can get my dinner there
I wish I had some of your
fried cakes here I wouldnt
do a thing to about a dozen
of them I also would eat some
of those berries if I were there
strawberries are out of ~~the~~
season here we can get black
& Red Raspberries also long
Black berries a 5cts a pt

June 23

No. 1
Camp Alger June 23, 98
Dear wife & family
I received your welcome letter
this P.M. and you dont know
how much good it done me
to think the money arrived
all right and just in time
to get my 2 cas little girl
some shoes I sent you
some more this morning
hop you have it by the
time you get this I have
been very busy today
the Regiment went on a
long march this morning
and I had to work until

clear velvet last night and
was up and at it again at
2.30 this morning. I am
a lone again and had 13 men
to cook for had my dinner all
ready and about 10 minutes
before mess call in came
Dinner with 27 men and I
had it all to do over again
so I had to cook my bacon
for another hour over a hot
fire frying my bacon as
what the men call saw
billy and about 90 degrees
of hot sun on my back
it is a very warm sun in
the day time and cold
nights. Well my D cos I
fool'd away some money

today I bought a little
present for you and Keith
and a man is going to
bring one for Ethel in the
morning there are lots of
things a man can spend
his money for but when
I see them I think which
will do you the most good
and say to myself the
money will and go on
about my work I saw a
badge today I would like
to get Shortley but the price
was too high they will be
cheaper in a few days and
then may be I will get
one for him I want to send
him something

Barton & Patten

Good night and good
luck to you

do. Well I'll let you guess if
I have lectured you enough
so if you will stop it and if you
will stop writing for this
time as it is bed time
write to me of ten and if
I will try and answer them
take good care of Ethel & Ben
Kiss baby for me and your
mother to. Well good night
all let me hear from you
as soon as you get this
as I shall be anxious to know
if you get the money.
lots of kisses to you all
remember me to all. I will

write to me how I can help

Well we had a nice show
here tonight and about 200
men were out in it with
out a rag on them if you
are and I feel good now
put on some clean clothes
and shaved and am clean
and healthy tonight and
the only thing lacking to
make me happy is to be
able to see my dear
wife & children I sent
Lillian a package this
morning hope she received
it all right I have another
little present for her

if you spending lots of money lately guess I will have to stop it so as to send more for my dear ones at home to enjoy but have patience it is getting near pay day again and then you will have some more to help you out a little.

Can you keep track of what I send you if you can I wish you would so you see if I make as much as I would at the factory Oh I wish you could come and call on me but the pros cant ride in styles as the rich do do you go to the lake

well so allie how are you for money have you got any if you havent let me know and I will send you some if mama havent any for you to go to festivals with I will send you some for your self but you must remember that you are a poor mans daughter and dont spend to much but I will do the best I can for you so you can have some of the pleasures of this life but you must be a good girl and obey your heavenly father so you can enjoy as much of the next life as the rich

12 hours of 1 night of
 march think I had a snap
 but I tell you I was on
 the snap the most of the
 time, but it was my
 duty and I will do that
 as long as I can stand up
 if asked for a pass to
 Washington today think
 I will go about Tuesday
 if I can earn money enough
 to take me there before that
 time and I think I can
 but I feel that I am
 Robbing you and my little
 ones of that amount, I
 done a washing for Mrs.

Planned yesterday had 4 new cards

12 hours of 1 night of
 march think I had a snap
 but I tell you I was on
 the snap the most of the
 time, but it was my
 duty and I will do that
 as long as I can stand up
 if asked for a pass to
 Washington today think
 I will go about Tuesday
 if I can earn money enough
 to take me there before that
 time and I think I can
 but I feel that I am
 Robbing you and my little
 ones of that amount, I
 done a washing for Mrs.

and get good pay for it
 I don't think I'm making
 nothing + Mr. & Mrs. and
 Geo. & John I like to
 camp I like fine
 Dear wife & family
 I am very tired out but
 I feel it my duty and a
 pleasure to write to you
 tonight and send you
 a little of the fruits of my
 labor which is also a
 pleasure enclosed find two
 for you to use as you think
 best I write you that our
 Reg. must see out on
 a long march well they
 came back today about
 10 o'clock all dirt and
 tired out and I had to

get dinner for these all
alone but if I knew they
were coming, I'd give
ready for them then was
12 men for dinner today
we had baked pork & Beans
potatoes coffee & Bread, this
morning we had ham &
eggs coffee Beans & Bread
yesterday we had boiled
Cabbage pork & Potatoes coffee
& Bread I had 12 loaves of
bread served today about
12 o'clock tonight I have only
8 loaves left so I may
imagine that the men
eat a little like the other 2 cooks
has not done a thing since
they come back only

lay in the shade and play
poker and if done their work
so I haven't earned a cent
of extra money today for
you if come over please
today just after dinner
the heat was terrible
and I was out the first
getting the beef ready to
roast have cooked 117
lbs of beef this afternoon
will eat it up cold for
breakfast and fry some
potatoes this morning
I was up and had
breakfast all ready
at 6 o'clock and no one to
help me but the men
that were out on the

and if think we will
come home soon after
that good by my Dear
and be sure and write
if havent had a letter
from any one since
last Thursday
Kiss babe for me
Remember me to all

B. J. P. (didnt find
Wednesday morning
Dear Family I went to
Washington yesterday will
write about it when I
have more time to do

Sunday night and your
letter here yet but will
not fail to send it in
the morning if have
been made a fool of
again today one of the
Booke went to Washington
and the other has played
poker the most of the
day and if done the
work so I have it had
much time to myself
I think I will go to
Washington Tuesday
if it dont rain will
finde Will if I can

have had the promise of
another dollar in the
morning don't know as
I will get it but hope I
will. Well I can't write
much to night I am
to worried I wish I
could step in and
see you for a few minutes
at least to night but it
is out of the question
I am a long way from
you it has been terrible
hot here today I suppose
the babe's suppose has the
heat these hot days.
Well I don't think of
any thing to write so
I will close good night

answers this as soon as
you get it - if it is only
a postal card and let
me know if you get
the money I begin to
think you don't get all
of my letters that has
money in them I guess
I will have to wait
until I get enough
so it will pay to get
a money order
to see if guess you had
better give up the wheel
until I come home
and by the way things
look in the paper the
Spaniards will be
cleared out pretty soon

send me any more untill
I ask for them as it is
hard to keep them here
for they get stuck together
and there is a place to
buy them here now and
I have lots of money
now. Well I will close
and go to bed as I am
sleepy and send more kisses
to the children + yourself
good night and write as
often as you can. I feel
better than I did last
night good night and
god bless you B.H.R.

Saturday night and your
letter not gone yet but will
surely send it in the morning
if am well yet and as
being as long I have worked
this after noon but this
morning we had to turn
~~out for inspection~~
I didnt get time to do
much Eddie come to me
for more money to night
he wanted \$2.00 tonight
that makes \$4.00 he owes
me now and I have
\$4.00 in my pocket
which I will send you

in this letter making \$400
of has mad and got and
there is \$230 owing to me
making \$1130 if I get it
since I sent you the \$900
and I expect to get \$1242
from the State now soon
my Dear it is a pleasure
to see to send my money
home to you and my
children I think you
will pay our debt if
I can get the work
right along as I am
now I have to turn
lots of work away as
I can't wash for the
whole Regiment and
cook to but will do

all I can. 2 of the Companies
received recruits today
about 25 men each and the
report is that we will have
ours next week every Company
is to be recruited to 100 men
that means more work
for the cooks. Did Willie
get the paper I sent her
I have some more envelopes
which I will send with
Lehastier book for her and
she must give Charlie
some of them do I put
stamps enough on the
books I send to him if
not let me know and I
can get all the stamps
I want now dont

I wish to say that
 I would love to
 have a picture
 of you and the
 good-by and the
 all from your
 loving
 Boston &
 Ruth

Wednesday morning

Dear family I did not get a
 chance to send this last night
 so will put in a few more
 words this morning you need
 not bother to send any more
 stamps as an arrangement has
 been made so the postage can
 be paid at the other end of the
 route so you can get my letters
 just the same but you will have
 to pay the postage there.

We only had hard tack and bacon
 + coffee for breakfast this
 morning the dishes are not
 washed this morning get
 are waiting for dish water
 to heat these was lots of heating

I am having and there is nothing
to do for me at present
and if the boys fear to come out
this morning but I could not
help it if we don't get the stuff
to cook we can't cook it. There
was a great excitement here in
camp last night was the great
battle just won by the army
of flat shooting and hurrahs
were heard from all over the camp
nearly all night you was up
at 3 o'clock this morning
because I could not sleep
there was so much noise
the barrell with the package
of bad traps for you left
here yesterday did not cost
any thing to send it so if
you don't get them there will
be no loss but get them if
you can. I think de Perry will
get them for you well the matter
is hot and I want to get them in
the morning so as good by

so good night
and note again
I have cleared
5 pairs of harts
and washed some
in the kitchen
today making
doing my
regular work
Well good
night write
again when you
can remember
me to all the
best
R. R.

Let this be your goal
make the work for you all
How does the dog find
it now? Is he
they go on summer
them we are trying
band in our
perhaps they could
down here
close and go to
have to get out
early to get
& when you are
on horse guard

For Charlie

Camp A. L. L. July 7, 98
I can find
yesterday and
always glad to hear
from you
in all night
in the station
all around
isn't very slow
Washington
say I am
& more
and tonight they

Santiago will be surrounded
with bombardment
am sorry the work is so
slack hope it will be
better to harley you are
welcome to the stocks and
if dont want you to pay
for them you have paid
for them a great many
times already if will get
the pencil if if can but
am afraid if cant get any
have sent to Washington
3 or 4 times but havent got
any yet if was lucky in
getting the stocks for you
they were the last the man
had and there was 3 or 4 after

them Tell the boys if are
all right and that if
answer all letters sent to
me and will answer any
one who will write to me
except Dake the bluffer
flunker and the Candy
man & harley if am glad
you take such an interest
in my interest am afraid
you are working to hard
and then you want to
pay for a cheap set of
buttons no harley if dont
want you to do it if
one you more than you
do sure if remember Gifford
perhaps harley had better

Don't tell I have another box
of clothes packed and mailed
up to send to you tomorrow
did it cost to send it and
is it worth the freight let
me know as soon as you
can or I want you to get
it before you go to the
lake there are some things
in it for you all so
give them as directed in
Box the books are for
Charlie the Tonells are
some the men thought
were not worth washing
and I did so I washed
them and sent them
home the cross guns are
for Willie they are what
we have to use the spoon
is for the table if it is
in there don't know

I will be a great deal easier
for me if you had you have in
much company at Kupa you have
being in company many thanks
for the Rose Rose just work on
the Pratt soon again. You
don't hate to lose Charles
found in he going to leave you
I am sorry to see Mrs K has
hurt herself The 4th was a great
day her cannons fire crackers
& champagne bottles all day and
in the evening the air was
full of rockets some on candles
and fire balloons and some
things you can't think of
and more it was one
continuous stream for
about 4 hours of such
you could have seen it
and heard the music it
was great if thought of
you a great many times

of our looking at each
other in a sort of
had your pictures taken and
said to me if will do a little
extra work if you think
not and pay for them but
if you had rather have the
money don't do it work
Ben in too if you can
Now I am a do as you
think but about coming
to L. B. but if think it
would do you all good
perhaps I will be home
by the time you get
ready to come home and
may be if want of cost
tell but it look to me
as if the war would not
last much longer but

of our looking at each
other in a sort of
had your pictures taken and
said to me if will do a little
extra work if you think
not and pay for them but
if you had rather have the
money don't do it work
Ben in too if you can
Now I am a do as you
think but about coming
to L. B. but if think it
would do you all good
perhaps I will be home
by the time you get
ready to come home and
may be if want of cost
tell but it look to me
as if the war would not
last much longer but

I did not find Mr. L. L. the
 that I had met to have sent me
 had moved to Kansas Falls
 Well I will have to close and
 go to bed as I have a hard day
 for tomorrow as no water
 will be running in the morning
 have you got the pictures yet
 and the money order of how
 assured the letter about the
 cow sell her if you want but
 you must by all the means
 that Ethel wants if you do
 dont deny her of her wish
 when she likes it so well
 Well I like if dont tell her
 much about Washington one
 will have to see it to tell any
 thing about the splendor of
 the place the book will explain
 better than I can tell you



I hope you will
 when you find money so
 all my very love
 how I wish I could do
 great things for me
 Mr. L. L. I am a
 today I had a
 when from the
 Camp Alyn July 10 95
 Dear Family & friends at home
 Well I like if you send your
 picture letter yesterday
 and was very glad to get
 it as it is so nice as I
 can get to you it found me
 well and working but my
 face is quite sore yet. I wish
 we had a river here that we
 could get into. Ethel will be
 so large if will not know
 her when I get home you
 must be careful of her when

you go in the river with
her I just sent the other piece
of money in another lot sent
it yesterday there is something
in it for all of you tell
Charlie to open it if you go
to Colo. before it gets there
if did not pay the freight
how much did the other
one cost the spoon of speck
about 4 pound and sent by
mail today also another
package of paper also one to
Charlie and one to Minnie
We have lots of more clothes
and tools and will send
them home if the freight is
not more than the stuff is
worth. the letter you spoke

of is in Jessy lately yet
there is some money in it
and I told them not to make
it until they got to Camp
Lana when you get letters with
money in them tell me and
how much so I will know
if you get what I send you
I wrote you a letter a number
of letters with a doll or so
and you dont say a word
about them so please let me
know when you get a letter with
money in if had 600 in my
pocket for you soon but dont
know what to do about sending
it will not send it until
I hear from you if sent a
money order for \$23.00 Friday

I call for
him I have
only made
40 cents today
if had all the
looking to
do about
Well my dear
I must
Close it at
is late and
my one
in bomb is
okay but
and I know
I want get
wishes you must look pretty
slick there now wish I could
step in and see you all and
don't be surprised if I do but
may not be in some time
yet I want to see you
you to not get a Buke now
as you need what little
money I can send you for
something else more than
a wheel I think Ben is a
good dog what will you take
for him I will give \$2.00 and
here is your money merit
or let mama have it to me
for you and keep Ben until

10
I will
I thought
I'll Charlie
to have I think
I will write
when the
man come
look good
my little
Baby for
one and
keep look for
yourself
I understand
don't pay any attention to
what you hear as there is no
truth in it as any one knows
of me hear every thing here one
day we are going to Cuba
the next day to Postaria and
the next to Loney Island
to do gas wood stunts so
Dr. Bulye don't know any
thing about it any more
than you do and no one
will know until we get
orders to move and then we
will have to go where we
sent so don't worry until
you have some thing to worry

about if dont pay any attention
to what I hear it is time to
worry when we have to you
had a friend who is better
than I and if it is true
will that I shall go to the
front he will take care of
you in some way and probably
better than you can think of my
coming back as black as a
nigger from the sunny South
and dont look at the dark side
for there is always sunshine
after a shower. I was thinking
if had written to you and I
think I did but will write
again I havent written to
Grandmother yet received
a letter from Mother today

Mam has another kid. They are
as well as can be expected.
Now Willie I will answer your
letter I will send you a piece
of music which you can learn
to sing to me when I get home
yes my dear nothing does me
more good than to get a letter
from my dear ones at home
no Willie keep them ^{the main} if you
^{post and envelope} want to or use them for any
thing you want them for
you might send me one
so I can keep it if you have
written on it but keep the
rest I can get more here
you had quite a time with the
Cows I should think you had
better sell her if she is too much



little angels and kiss
them for me excuse
poor writing as it is
done in a hurry
remember me to all
How is Mr & Mrs
Id. Good night
Believe me
Sillie Harry +
Charley your paper
yet.

Believe

Camp Alger July 12 98
Tuesday evening
Dear wife & little ones
received your letter today
and was glad to hear from
you and that you were
all well & as well and
working I sent you a
letter Friday morning
with an Money order in
it for \$3.00 I thought
you would get it before
I say hope you have it before
this time if not let me

know at once as I had to
work to hard for it to
lose if have a little more
for you as soon as I
know that you have that
Johnny Clancy says his
people are home and sent
the letter to you that day
probably you have it before
this have you ever got any
watch from Brendan &
Mardens if you havent
please inquire about it
I got a letter from Aunt
Beth Miller and one from
Matter today and a card
from Father yesterday
and a letter from F. Steady
and Father Saturday

well it is bid today and
I will have to close since
this short letter and let
me hear from you about
the money and watch
and the letter from
Clancys if sept soon
pictures to settle
this morning the camp
is perfect I am glad
you sold the cow as it
saves you lots of work
but give the baby all she
wants as long as I can
work and earn it. well
I will close and will
write again when I have
more time.
take good care of the



Co. D.....

papers envelope
3rd Reg.

New York Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brig

2nd Division 2nd Army Corps,

Camp Russell A. Alger, Va.

Friday July 15
Dear Family and all
I have been very slow in answering
your kind letters but dont you stop
writing because if do as I am very
busy the most of the time you
will not hope this I will give
at the same if am out of the
company & looking for business now
and am drilling with the company
and washing when I get any to do
I had quite a lot of money for you
but have lent it to the boys of
you and at before pay day you
will know and if will get
some for you I dont get around
work to do as I did so dont make a

saved money but will make all
I can and send you I have spent
some for lumber this month
have bought quite a lot of milk
but feel guilty every time I eat
it as if I think it is taking
that much away from some
Dear ones that need it worse
than I do but have resolved to
be more careful and not spend
any more when you need it so
bad I sent you a memorial of
the company this week and
today another box of dry goods
and some glasses &c that I picked
up and cleaned the small ones
are for the small children also
the white cup for the 2
blue & white are the ones I brought
from home I have some that I
got for in asking and I don't

2



Co.....

3rd Reg.

New York Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brig

2nd Division 2nd Army Corps,

Camp Russell A. Alger, Va.

want so much stuff to look after
and so I send these home if you
come back if you wear them out
it wont cost anything to keep them
the little books Miller can give away
to whoever she wants to they were
sent here with tobacco and I
thought she would like them
well if you go and drill
will finish this tonight. Well
my love has if you again tell
Mrs. Brown we had a plenty to
eat and a variety to we had some
of common potatoes new bread & coffee
for dinner Roast beef potatoes
and floss gravy & Bread for
sup for tomatoes potatoes coffee & bread

for Breakfast this morning &
tomorrow morning we get
Boiled Rice potatoes Bread & coffee
and we have had Rice pudding
warm biscuits & boiled dinner of
pork Cabbage potatoes and most any
thing that can be got at home
except pie cakes & we havent had
pea soup but twice since we come
here we get butter once in a
while when we have the money
to buy it with also Eggs and
black berries we have had 3
crates of them lots of beans both
baked and boiled we have some
green onions & Cabbage coming
tomorrow if O. news says we get
nothing but pea soup he tells
something that isnt so.
The living is all Right
there are some times it is



Co.....

3rd Reg.

New York Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brig

2nd Division 2nd Army Corps,

Camp Russell A. Alger, Va.

it is scorched or isn't quite cooked
but very often.

Well my dears by the reports
here tonight we will not be here
much longer but will be at
home and there is where the
most of us want to be if we
are not wanted to defend our
Flag and Country this life
is not a pleasant one of
course you the ground is a hard
bed when you have nothing
but a thin rubber blanket
to lie on some of the men have
bunks of have one made out of
3 green poles and some boards

nailed on them to keep me off the
ground but it is not so
soft and the tents are crowded
so it is very unpleasant if
havent slept with my clothes
off since I left home so if I
do ever come home and get in
bed or under it on the floor
dont wonder at it we are used
to it and sleep just as well
as if we were on a bed
I bought myself a wash tub
and board of my own tonight
I have lost lots of work because
I didnt have a tub to work
with. have you ever sent my
Revolver I havent received it
yet if you have I send a pin
with this for Charlie have you
received the spoon for Ethel and
paper I sent to Willie & Charlie



4
Co.....

3rd Reg.

New York Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brig

2nd Division 2nd Army Corps,

Camp Russell A. Alger, Va.

also the pictures one of the camp
(it is perfect) and the one
of the Marine and the General
please tell me when you
get these things as I am
anxious for you to get them
and I will want to look at
them some time may be
the pictures I did not post any
stamp on because I could not
get them if I had money but
there was no stamps to be
got in camp so I'll be glad I am
glad that you were pleased
with the belt mama must
look quite gay with a fancy
belt on I expect to be home

My Anger means now
I am so glad you are
writing me to all and
see you with them or before
long by the sound of the
papers tonight unless
something new turns up
I feel quite encouraged now
about getting home soon
unless something new turns
up that is not known of
now. Captain I left next to
I say today on a 10 day
furlow if I could get out but
it would cost so much that
the money it would cost would
do you more good than it would
for me to come home and have
to come back again. Well I
must close for this time hoping
this will find you all well tell
me all about Ethel and take good
care of her and kiss her lots of times for
me and Lillie we are in hopes I
can do it myself before long

Frank Lake owes me 50 cents
 and if you could get the \$5.00 from
 Fisher and Doubletree since I owe you
 the note is there if you could
 get some potatoes or something
 of him it would be as good as
 the money to you as long as
 you had to buy them if Fisher
 works for Quinn tell him and
 if guess he will fix it so you
 can get it Did you go to the
 picnic it says you did in letters
 account for if know she would
 enjoy going so much if you
 get a bet for Corrie if you
 think she would like it but
 don't give her yours, I am
 so glad that baby remembers
 me the picture must be
 good if she knows what it
 is, am glad every one likes
 our little angle so well.



Five dollars for
 me and remember
 me to all
 Love
 Bob

Which I had some
 money to send you
 I was about 2/3 of
 the way to the

Camp Alger July 12 1898
 Dear home a picture of that
 of remind your love letter getting
 and at a time when I had
 nothing to do and was think
 inking about you away off
 in the woods by myself but
 the man that got the mail
 knew where I was and
 brought it to me, I am
 well and have lots more
 time to myself than I did
 when I was working and
 am not excited to death

all the time and can eat
more than I could when I
had to cook it My face is
all well again but has
been very sore and pained
If one would like to have me
where you could see me any
better than I would like to
be there where you could see
me I am a you must not
work too hard you keep preaching
to me about working hard
you must look out for your
self I am sorry glad you
see the money I send you
for something you need
and it is a pleasure for
me to send it and be
able to earn it for you

Am glad you can get something
for Gaby I think she would
look "kick" in a white dress
immoving around get her
a bonnet and do you think
one of those little would be
suit for her if you do tell
me and if you get one for
her if you have nothing
that is crowding you and
dont need the money you
might offer to pay the
band some if you havent
it all give them what you
can spare but dont rob
yourself if will have some
more for you in about 2
weeks probably about \$27.00
so you can figure on that

and spread it with cream
in the front we got some chocolate
fig cake jelly cake fruit cake
knob wicker cheese cookies and
olives pickles and canned fruit
tell Mrs. Owens we had baked
bark & cream coffee & bread
for dinner. Tell her you say
you wish you could come
down here if wish you could
too if wouldn't be a thing
but boy and kids you are
Captain in barby and
would have you come with
him if there was any
way to get you home again
if may possibly come home
on a furlow if we stay
here much longer what he
would you rather have
me come home for a few
days or the money it would

2 hope she will always be good
to everyone will always like
her but look out that she
don't get spoiled for
when I come home I
want to find a nice
little girl which I think
I will I would like to see my
picture but guess it won't pay
to send it here do you like
with the ones taken in W
but think father would
like one if you have it
to spare if think you are going
well to pay so much and be
able to get something for
yourself I would like
to come home and find all
debts payed and will work
and earn money for you
to pay them with as long
as I can get the work to
do I am glad you didn't
except any thing of Page



as when I come home they
won't have that to throw
at me and if I can get
steady work some where else
I don't know as I will ask
them for work but don't tell
any one about this for I may
be obliged to ask them for
work I read about it in the
paper by someone don't know who
says we have new potatoes
and they are very nice too
it is very dry and hot here
lots of the men sleep out in
the woods of logs but one
a bid one of the men went
in with me and we built
a double decker here is a
model of it ~~through~~ it is built

of round poles and is quite
comfortable better than the
ground. All of grace of
will answer Lillie's letter
now - well Lillie I think
that to tell must be quite
a young lady to talk so
much you must teach her
to write so she can
write to me I don't see
many horses here but lots
of wheels very seldom a
bicycle but lots of men
and very few women and
children there was a couple
of women visiting a man
in our tent from Washington
they she brought a large
basket full of good stuff

Leilie there are men all
around me drink and
beer some are so drunk they
can hardly sit up other are
hard out entirely how would
you like to hear if was so
full of beer I couldnt sit
up but dont you worry if
all enough so I dont want
it any company had if
I could get it and it
is always and I did not
take a drink neither did
Eddie Pamy Eddie is a
good boy but he spends
lots of his money for
cake cookies pies water
& the like it is all right if
he can afford it but I
would rather send the money
to you so you can have it
than to let it myself well
by and with a love you can

cost for me to come (3) ask
mama and see what she says
are these going to be many
packages with of me they to
see them you must look you
with your new belt and
mama oh my she must
look real enough to kiss
if me there if think I would
try it any way I am glad
to send you something you
will both enjoy but if I
bought some thing that
came into camp I could
not send you any money
at all for there is something
all the time but I cant get
any more of those pencils
or buttons if have tried
hard as I would like to
accomodate those who
wants them you can test
them so they will not

5) none of these business
Will of course if will close
for this time and write to
Cecile & Laver. I received
a letter from Cassie a
few days ago hope this
will find you all well
it is sunny warm here
today I am out in the
woods in the shade but
there is no air stirring
shall look for a few lines
from you Tuesday hope you
will have a good time at
Cedars hope wish I were
there to go with you
but you must write to
me often and tell me all
about your visit and
~~your~~ the folks there it
looks a little like winter

I don't try to get them I have
asked nearly every dealer
that comes here to try and get
some for me but can't get
any yet I have a silver (I
ring with my name
company & Regiment
stamped on it paid 25
cents for it I can't tell
you better whether I will
come home before you get
back or not probably not
sometimes I think I will
be home soon and then
the papers talk say again
so can't tell any thing
about it I would like
to come home if possible you
you must write to me the
boys play me in you
about me it is so

cooked of course we have to cook
over an open fire and sand
dust is shut to blow over
the grass but it is as
clean as can be had it takes
a boiler full of coffee a big
one to bigger than mamma's
by one half for a meal

about 1 1/2 bushels of potatoes
and 45 lbs of beef and
30 loaves of bread for a
meal the bread is very good
and fresh is baked in the
night and we get it about
8 o'clock the next morning it
is still warm some times
it is drawn from Washing-
ton in large covered wagons
with 4000 loaves on them
and from 4000 to 6000 lbs
of bread at a load and our
Regiment takes 3 loads a
day

Will Judge of well
know for this time
as it is hard to
write a good letter
to myself you know
you don't know
any one as any
thing about the
down here there
I am 2 miles from
for a 7 day journey
every week with
lessen with them
and stay a week
with you and
all what work
left on well

Camp Aiken July 19 - 88
Dear Wife & family
I wished for a letter from
you today but did not get
it hope they finds you all
well as this leaves me so
if succeeded in getting some
more buttons today have
forgot who you said
wanted them I sent a
set to Mrs. Wilson dont
let her pay for them and
you can do as you like
about the others they are 25

Memoranda for the good folks
Mamma and baby for me and
he there is go with you Kall
have a good time and I could
if they are for our friends
don't charge for them but
if Mrs. Mead or some one
like her gets them let them
pay for them it is very
warm here today and has
been for a number of days
but is raining quite hard
now and will be cooler
for a while after it is over
one of our men out of our
Company had a stroke
this A.M. and is unconscious
got an ambulance took him
to the Hospital a short time
ago he was a recruit from
Syracuse I sent you a
Testament this morning

say that you have my dog
you are ready to go to do
as often as you can I will
and mama a book and
have another for her which
I will send as soon as I
can get a stamp and will
send her more of them if
she wants them as they are
very cheap and good reading
so if mama wants any
more tell me and I will
get them for her. We had a
good dinner today hamburger
steak smothered in onion
new boiled potatoes coffee
and bread and mustard
how is that for Presence Pea
Soup dont let any one stuff
you up like that as we
have good living and well

July 20, 1898



Army and Navy Christian Commission

OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Young Men's Christian Associations,

3 WEST TWENTY-NINTH STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

WILLIAM B. MILLAR,
SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION.

CAMP ALGER,

J. F. MOORE, CAMP
W. N. MULTER, GENERAL SECRETARIES.

Falls Church, Va., July 20 1898

Dear Wife & Children
I havent any news to write as I sent
a letter to you this morning and
received yours after I had sent it
away dont send the Review now as
I guess I shall not need it I am
not in the Band and I guess I
cant get in either but have tried
my best to get in they dont want
a solo tenor they want someone that
can play a slide.

There was a drummer left here last
night for 30 days on a 10 day furlow
his name is Charles Hunt he is
going to Minnetta and will call on
you he is a good fellow treat him
well give him plenty of good things

To eat and any message you love for
me he will bring.

Mr. Jones. How sorry kind I will
write to him when I have more time
I am on guard today went on last
night at 8 o'clock and will get
released at 8 tonight I think you are
getting along fine paying debts I guess
you do better when I am away from
home or else you are a better manager
than I am I am disappointed about
you not having your pictures I had
look forward for them to arrive but
may be it is just as well to pay
debts first or a little better.

Well I have no more time now so will
close with love to all and lots of kisses
to you all B.K.K.

Send Lillie down here with

Charles Hunt

I cant get a stamp to put on this so I will
have to have the Chaplain put his stamp on ^{and you will} have to pay for it

now in the tent I have a little bit
of my own out side. so I don't
worry any one or they don't bother
me if they ever shake the tent over
it is kept off the tent at night
and even a rain at other times
it is made out of poles out of
the woods and is made something
like a crib only it is big enough
for a man to get into and turn
over. I'll give you a piece of
brick and 2 or 3 pieces of stone
out of the old Green Fairface
house, will send them to you
sometimes before long. Well I will
then hope you to be a good mother
soon give baby for me and take
good care of her write as often
as you can and tell me all the
news when you go home let me
know so I will know where to send
you good by remember me to
lovingly yours B. K. Kender



Dear sister this paper is
rather dirty but in all I
have out here in the woods
with me so you I will
use it. I am glad mamma
liked the book but she did
not say whether she did or
not if I can get more but
have forgotten the names of
the ones I sent her if you
will tell me the names I
will see if I can get some
things different for her and
send it her in there enough
postage on them. am glad
to hear you have another
new dress is Mr. Pitted
home now

I should think Merle was
making quite a visit
probably the man you saw
was one of our men as there
are 2 or 3 of them away the
most of the time & most
went home yesterday

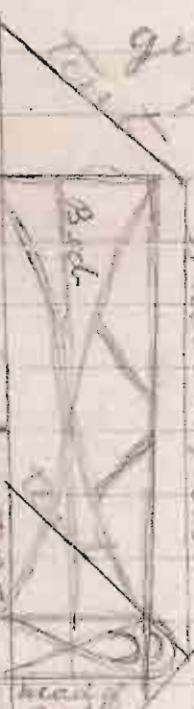
Billie I am sorry you can't
come down here but don't think
it would be best myself but
would like to have you see
how we have to live here and
what we have to do the doctors
are very nice for any one to
look at especially the Dr. east
of grade at 6 o'clock in the eve
there is some one going every
week so there would have been
lots of chances for you to come
home but maybe you had
better give it up and not
come as it is so warm here
it might make you sick

I wish I could get some of your pop
over you must have all your baby
teeth nearly all out now
you must be getting to be
quite a house keeper your
mother is away so of ten
she makes twice since I left
home she has left you alone
to that home. Dinner is ready
I will have to go and eat it as
go with out Well I have had my
dinner we had baked pork &
beans coffee & bread and have
had another shower and looks
as if we would get another soon
Billie you are a good girl to go
was sending you a letter
I hope you will be a
good girl hope you will be
I will write back you a little
letter to be good to it is
springing and with me I hope
so I want to see you go & on
a lot paper and there is not
much to write to unless
any of them are one about

L

Lillie here is a picture
of my Bed and shelter tent
over it as near as I can
get it on paper the
bed is made of small
hickory trees or poles
and fastened together
with strips of bark
and a few nails
would use more
nails but could
not get them the
bottom or place where
I lay is made of bark
woven together like a
market Basket I have
a straw tick now filled
with straw I bought the
straw gave 25 cents for a
bundle and a small one
at that the tick I made

The back of the tent is made of bark and the sides are made of bark



The head of the bed is made of bark and the sides are made of bark

some of the men find some more things
you are about the floor mine & go
will be some 24 hours but will tell
have to go out on Passaground tomorrow
will have to close for tonight & will
in nearly out arm of the table and
and the mind there some to find candle
Mell & like it in morning again
out of some old Burlap

bags that the potatoes come
in & riped them apart
and washed them and
then sewed them together
and call it a straw tick.
it isnt as nice looking
as your Aunt Corrie is on
her front room bed but it
answers the same purpox and
is quite comfortable side of laying
on the ground with nothing
under us as the most of the men
do as they havent got enough
to build a bunk there is some
one or more the most of the
time through the day as it is
out of the large tents and is quiet

and people him
and one can
and one can

Dr. Men & you can possibly
 the money me to off friends with
 knowledge & skills for me and
 and say nothing we have enough
 to eat but it is not cooked at home
 bread is all right for the
 kind it is but is not home
 made. Baker never was
 for me. I want to see you every
 day today had my mind partly
 made up to go home but my
 hopes are shattered now as we
 can only get a pass for 10 days
 at the most and would cost me
 about \$23.50 the \$11.62 you made
 you about is for fuel only
 and I guess nothing but officers
 get them a poor private has to
 spend all the money he gets for
 any thing like that when an
 officer get the same thing for
 half the money well I will
 close this is a poor letter will

better next time

Camp Alger July 27/98
 Dear Wife & Family
 I have been looking for a letter
 from you for a number of
 days expecting to hear you had
 gone to C. B. but haven't seen one
 yet so here goes. I am well
 and hope this finds you all
 the same. The man I wrote
 you about came back yesterday
 he says he got started for Minetto
 on his wheel and he had to go
 back and didn't start again
 I expected to hear from home
 and by one who had been there
 and look forward to his return
 and was greatly disappointed
 when he told me he did not go up
 there and presume you were just as
 much so. I am out on pass

July 27, 1898

guard duty about 2 miles from
our camp and quarreling a lot
of provision shack filled with
pies cakes cookies and all sorts of
stuff but they do me no good as
I haunt a Cent I got trusted for
a quart of milk this morning I
ought not to have done it
but I wanted it so bad I
couldnt help it some of the
men owe the milk men as
high as \$4.50 I told me this
morning that he owed half of
his next months pay Ray
Althouse says he owes \$7.00
of his and I owe \$0.50 cents of mine
unless I can work and earn it
before that time I sent a letter
to Mr Jones this morning
also one to Father and a piece
of music to Billie. has Billie
got the buttons yet and do you
like the books I send you if not

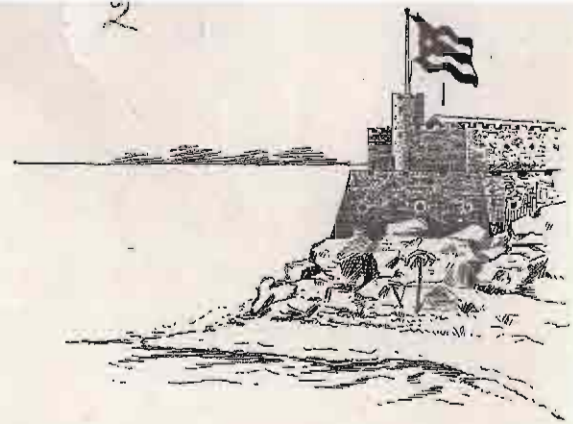
I wont send any more it is
very hot here today I expect our
Regiment will move down
nearer to D run soon
but my Address will be the
same as before 2 comp arrived
from our Battalion left
yesterday morning one of them
went to Falls Church and
the other to the aqueduct
Bridge across the Potomac
going into Washington and
the other two companies in the
Battalion will do Prov guard
duty until their return which
will be in about 20 days.
I guess by the sound of the papers
we will not be here much longer
as Spain wants to see for
peace I hope she will I do
something before long for I am
sick of this kind of life I can
come home and eat most anything



LIBERTY



LIBERTY



Thursday morning, July 28 '98
 Did not send my letter of Friday
 and received yours this morning
 it came yesterday but I was out
 of camp so did not get it until
 I returned this morning we had
 a hard rain here last night but
 is fine today. I have not work to
 do so will talk with you for a
 time on paper of record a little
 from Biddell Northrop this
 morning the last man I ever
 expected to hear from I think Ben
 is a good dog to look after the boys
 will leave my Dear I am
 afraid that it will cost
 more for me to come home and

2
 I think you are doing nobly
 paying debts am sorry you
 haven't money for you but
 if cant borrow it for you
 and we will probably not
 get it before from the 5 to 8 of
 next month if you could borrow
 what you want and tell me
 who you get it of if you will
 send it to them as soon as you
 get it there has been some
 loss in camp that they want
 their money to buy it and
 get treated for their
 washing I have \$1.00 worth
 of work to do tomorrow yesterday

I made \$2.65 but it is not
often I get that chance it was
on account of the inspection that
I had the chance but did not
get a cent in money it was
all trust, was every thing in the
box all right I hope nothing
was broken me what you
have to go home with and I
will send money to any one
you say to pay the loan when
I get it fix it any way
you like and let me know
what you do

Well he illie I can get you
a pin of grass but I havent
the price of one now I have
a few stamps and that is
all I have got now take
care of the stuff in the box
for me except what was
sent to others especially
the letters

you and the children could get
so much more enjoyment out
of the money than you could if
I came home some of the men say
it wont cost but about \$11.25 or
\$12.00 and other say it will cost
over \$2.00 and think of the good
thing you could get to eat with
with \$2.00 you could pay the loan
for six weeks and have a little left
you could stay at the lake a
week longer and enjoy yourself
if now have sent Currie any thing
so you can take them if you
wish did you ever give her lots
Cora I never asked you to send her
Wish I could see the flowers that
Martha sent me a large
geranium leaf and a blossom
in the letter wish I had some of
your cucumbers I havent ever
seen one this year yet and I
like them very much

think you will
if you feel that
flat - think that
you are not as
bad off as you
might be. That
of the two little
children left to
you care and you
know if you are
down hearted that
they will grow
with you and not
in other poor heart
ache to hear that
little cry for
me so as you
do it and do the right thing
too and mama must bear
up to and not get discouraged
as all will come out right
in time as long as we are
all well and I am able to
do extra work and earn money
for you to get what you need
I only wish I could earn more
I can be a brave little woman
and bear the burden you have
to bear and trust in the
Lord for every thing to come
out right and we will be
happy

but be sure
and trust your
Master to help
you out.
Well I have another
swatching to do so
will close for this
time. hope you will
have a fine time
which you will
if you try to and
I think you will
do good by it. The
New little ones
are and really love
to all be well. Love with
affection from
Mama

Camp Lake July 30 - 1898
Dear Maile and children
Received your welcome this
morning was glad to
hear you were well but
sorry the babe is broken out
with heat poor little thing
how she must suffer these
hot weather I am well and
working when I have any
thing to do but work is not
very plenty as the men
are like myself all busy
but paying will be

here before long so I will
have lots of work again
also some money for you
hope you will have a good
time down there. wish you'd
be there with you but the
money will do you more
good and you need so many
things and I want you to
get what you want.
will I send the \$25.00 you
got of Charlie to him or to
you. let me know at once
I think I will get my pay
soon as I signed the pay
Roll this morning and
we got our last pay before
the 7 of this month.

I sent a letter to you yesterday
morning you would have
got it today if you recd.
some bills. you must not
cry for me if you can help
it. I am well and so are
you but you mustn't be if you
sorrow or cry about me all the
time I am all right and
will probably be home before
long unless something new
turns up that we know
nothing about. the board
knows what is best and
if he think it is best for
us to stay here here we will
stay and he will take care
of us you ask him to help.

August 1, 1898

Camp Alger Aug 1. 98

Dear Family

I sent you a package of old letters this morning by mail I have no place to keep them here so will send them to you please take care of them for me and when I get home I will look them over and perhaps destroy them but I want to see them again if I come home. and the Washington papers say that 115,000 troops are going to be mustered out some time this month but we cant depend much on what we read in them

I came in this morning off
of Koo's guard at 9 o'clock after
24 hours of duty and am
nearly whipped today but have
some work to do this afternoon
but don't know how much I
will do. Well, Willie, I suppose
you are having a big time
down there riding around I
suppose you help do the milking
feed the pigs & chickens gather
the eggs and lead the herd
to water would you rather
live on a farm down there
than live at home on our
little place with our little
stock of chickens and pigs I
had forgotten that we had
any pigs I wonder how they
look I haven't heard from
Charlie since you left there
but wrote to him yesterday



Army and Navy Christian Commission
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
Young Men's Christian Associations,
3 WEST TWENTY-NINTH STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

WILLIAM B. MILLAN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

CAMP ALGER,
J. F. MOORE, } CAMP
W. N. MULTER, } GENERAL SECRETARIES.

Falls Church, Va., Aug 3 1898.

Dear Wife & Family
I looked for a letter from you
today but there was none
came this P.M. I am well
but some tired & sleepy I
went on guard yesterday
morning was on until 12
o'clock at midnight was called
out at 4 this morning and
worked until noon and was
put on guard again at 1 o'clock
and will have to stay until
1 o'clock tomorrow our Regiment
has all gone except 2 companies
our Co & Co K. we are left here for
Provost guard until the camp is
cleared out and then we will

go with the Regiment at
Sinnarum of instruction about 25
miles from here we will have to
walk and carry our packs and
guns and rations for 2 days
but we are liable to be here
for a week or 10 days yet cant
tell when we will go send your
letters here untill if send you
word to send them somewhere
else if received a letter from
Father yesterday Grand is so
she gets out to the table to eat
with them but is not very
strong yet if also received a
P. O. money order for £5.00 to
pay my fare home but no
more furlows will be issued
untill the Regiment is settled
together somewhere so it may
be some time before I can
come dont lost your visit about

but dont get any money as the
men are all out of money &
havent had a cent in a long
time more than enough to get
postage stamps with & will
have to send the P.C. order to
Albion as it is made payable
there before I can get the money
on it but we expect our pay
every day now and if we get
it I can keep the order until
~~it~~ come and then I can get
it cashed and not have to
run any risk sending it
I have a box all ready to send to
Mrs Wilson will send it as
soon as I get off guard I have
under clothes glasses one pair of
white duck pants for Jim towels
handkerchief 3 or 4 books and some
other stuff Well my Dear I will
have to close and go and walk my
post again write when you can

of any little money
in the money I should
my take the money
of all means
I have no money
to get paper with
now but as soon
as I get some I
will send some
of your Creemsters
wouldnt be any
good by the time I
they got her and
it would cost so
much to send them
by express it would
not pay. Well I
will clear for you
time and go to bed

on and the men have to
walk there with pack on
Their backs just as they
left Oweyo on the night
we came away it is about
35 miles from here because
my Dear dont say any thing
about my money it is
yours and if one you all
can get and more too it is
nice to have lots of money
but I would not give one
of our children for all the
money & fine things in the
world if I was worth ten million

to I will be ready
for tomorrow
as it will be about
day I will write to
tell you the first part
of the work I had
another piece of
money for her in
it worth sending
home if not I dont
bother with it
the money dont
cost any thing
but the postage
will cost might write
or if ten or more can
and tell me all the
news remember me
to all Mrs Childers and
love to you all Good night

Camp Alger Aug 6, 98
Dear Wife + Children
Recd your welcome letter
today I havent done much
but lay around all day
washed a little cleaned a
pair of pants that one of
the men was going to
burn and was offered \$1.50
for them tonight and sold
them and done 60 cents worth
of washing beside so I have
made pretty good wages today
I have to go on guard tomorrow

for 24 hours it seems to be
my luck to get guard duty
every Sunday I got 3 days
in succession this week
our Regiment is all gone
from here except Co D & K and
we will go as soon as our
trick of Prov guard is
done which will be in
about another week or 10
days Roy Althouse is
the proud father of a $3\frac{1}{2}$
lb girl. Riekey will
be discharged from the
Army on account of
his disability to do duty
Well I have just eat a
quart of milk and 6 slices
of bread

I sent 2 nice song book to
Billie and a package of
books to you yesterday
and a box of stuff to the
Wilson's people yesterday
with a little of everything
in it Received a letter
from Minnie this morning
she is going home to stay
awhile. There will be no
more fuelous issued
until the Regiment is
settled somewhere together
the camp they selected
was condemned before
the men got there and
they selected another
about 10 miles farther

Camp A lger August 8. 98.
Dear Sam to Billie & Ethel
I sent a letter to Billie this
afternoon and promised
to write a longer one too
next time so will commence
it now as I am lonesome
and havent nothing else
to do and I must do something
I done some work tonight
just before supper and got
paid for it and spent
05 cents for some milk for
supper and I had a feast
too I eat 6 slices of bread and
a quart of milk it was
the best supper I have had

4
Tuesday Aug 9
Well my Dears here I am at
it again I was lucky enough
to get out of doing guard duty
today dont know how it happ
ened there is quite a little
excitement around here today
over one of the nigger Soldiers
shooting a march yesterday and
then he spiked out and a whole
Regiment is looking for him
and if he is found the chances
are he will be shot at sight
one of our men saw him but
didnt know what he had done
and had no orders to stop him
so he let him go another of our
men shot at a 65 M.F. P
Tuesday if he caught him
stealing green corn out of a
farmers corn field he did not
hit him but the man is in

in a long time I borrowed 50
cents to get some paper for
Carrie and sent it yesterday
I will look for a letter from
you tomorrow and hope I
will not be disappointed have
you the books music and old
letters the music I think
is pretty good and something
Billie can always play and
will never wear out the
man I sold the pants to
was just here and
wants me to take them
back again he had a new
pair fixed to him tonight
I also had a pair of new legs
forced up on me as the
officer said every one had
to have them and I will have
to pay for them and they have

ordered a new hat and the one
I have is as good as the new
over we get from the government
so you see how we are treated by
officers if they say for you to get
new outfits we have to get them
and ask no questions so you see how
we are treated we are getting boots
logs or not quite as good for you can
stand a dog after the cone and you
will have to milk them yourself
but here we have to do the milking
after they come and the officers
take the cream that is from
\$120.00 to \$150.00 a month for CO
officers and we poor privates get
\$15.60 which you might call
the whey after cheese has been
made of the skimmed milk
Well say Dear you can judge

By the sound of this letter about
how I feel tonight we might
have a good time and enjoy
ourselves if the officers was
like the men but they have
the authority and they like
to row it and they do it

the stockade⁶⁷ awaiting a trial probably he will see a lot of hard labor before he gets out of it. We had a hard rain here yesterday after noon and nearly all night and is still cloudy looks as if it would rain again before noon but hope not as I have quite a lot of clothes on the line and I want to get them dry and off my hands. Well my dinner is almost ready so I will enjoy for a while we will get fried onions potatoes roast beef bread & coffee I spent .55 more for milk this morning had pudding & milk for breakfast (ch. meal pudding) and it was good too Ed. Peary & I are going to send another box home soon I will send everything that I can possibly get along with as we go on a 50 mile march now and I don't want to carry any more

Well it is [17] going to rain again and I will have to get the clothes in again as they will get wet again. Well here I am home again just after doing 24 hours of Provost guard duty the report this morning is that our Regiment moves to Middletown Penn and that is pretty straight Report that is quite a way from here and we will have to go by train and is more home I can't tell anything about what will become of us yet. There is lots of reports about. I received a letter from Charlie this morning he was very glad to hear from me and says he will be very glad when I get home I will send the letter to you and you can pass it for me put it with the rest of my old letters

161
Well it is after noon and
I havent any thing to do but
to talk with you on paper
I looked for a letter from you
today but got left. I have been
washing some today but in
a poorday to dry them it
rained about 2 o'clock and all
I had on the line got wet
and I had to take them all
down and rinse them all
over again I hear Reickey
goes home tomorrow on his
Discharge if I was to go
home ~~in~~ under the same
circumstances I should
want to go where one
could see me that knew
me and if I were single
I would never go to Minnetta
as it would always stick
to me and especially one who
is as true as he is

I expected to let get a letter from
you this morning but you
was no having a waiting apartment
have time to write here at
I thought and not a word this
week yet. Well I have not much
news this morning only we had
a good fast we were preaching
a great house and says the
people were very kind to us we
stayed in the house when we
were off duty in the front
room on the floor was made
normal last night they gave me
some milk and tea for supper
and this morning they gave me
tea and some more hominiks
I have some and better things
well I will close and try and
start a little before dinner
now write and let me know when
you are and how you are. Giving
along remember me to all and kiss
today lot of love for me from
Lester & Family

Camp. Alger Aug 15. 95-

Dear Family

Received your Welcome letter
Saturday and a picture of
Elovers family and yourself
last night the picture is not
a very good one I dont think
Lama you look as if you
was nearly as old as Mr
Campbell in the picture
I havent sent the money yet
we havent been payed yet and
probably wont be before we
reach Middletown Penn and
if hear we start in the morning
but we dont know anything
about it a soldier sent
express to know any thing

I havent got my pay yet
and dont know when I will
get it some say we will get
it tomorrow hope so as
if am afraid you will need
some to use has your money
all gone yet. I sent Aunt C
a package of paper and envelopes
yesterday find out what
size paper Uncle Elovers want
if you can and not let him
know what you want to know
for and send me the size
when you write.

our Company is scattered all
over the country yet some of
them I havent seen in 2 weeks

Well Willie my work matter
is hot so I will close for this
time give my love to all and
excuse this short letter will
do better next time I have
to go out on Prov ground
again in the morning
for 24 hours. Sent a letter
to mamma this morning
and answered all of her ^{inquiries}
the letter is on the package
also a piece of music for
you and a picture of a man
by the name of H. S. Ryder
of the 3 Regiment of
Missouri he comes to see me
and I go to see him quite
often but we cant make
out any relation between
us Well good by kiss baby
and Mamma for me and
remember me to all Ah Ryder

and if we stay here much
longer we wont know anything
of how the money order father
sent me yet dont know what
to do with it have been waiting
for our pay so I could ^{send} pay it
all together if you dont want
me to come home will wait
a few days more and then if
we dont get our money will
send it to Charlie

Well My Dear I had had
my dinner had hard tack &
milk and this morning I
had milk & hard tack but
I have spent my last cent
again so will have to take
what is given me or none
the grub we are getting now
is pretty rask the coffee is
no good at all and some of the
men are sick from drinking it

Middletown Pa. Aug 19

Dear Family

It has been some time since
I had from you or you from
me I am well but dreadfully
tired out we broke camp at
4 o'clock yesterday morning
(Thursday) but lay around
camp until about 2.30 when
we shouldered our packs and
started for D. unluckily it was
terrible hot and dusty we
only got one halt and that a
short one we were about an
hour on the march a distance
of 3 1/2 miles lots of the men
put up a big bluff and played
sick and were carried to D. L. on

the biggest 3 share of it was
for officers and when they get
hold of any thing of that kind one
one but them get it they are
the biggest lot of rogues called
min in the world and a
private is nothing unless they
have whiskey or money and
then they are good men as
long as the whiskey & money
lasts and then they are dogs
again Laura if there was
ever any thing in this world
I am sick of it is this
volunteer war business as
the way it is run by the
officers they are making
a fat thing out of it and
are going to hang on to
it as long as they can
well as I said we broke camp
at 4 o'clock yesterday morning we
had some hard tack and saw
belly for breakfast and did
not eat any thing more only

what we bought until 7.30
 last night we got some hard
 tack coffee and rotten corned beef
 and we just got something
 they called coffee and hard tack
 and there is some men around
 selling pies and the men are
 buying them to keep them
 alive if will say we have
 our pay and if will send it
 home as soon as I can get where
 I can I have \$53.00 now but
 dont know but I shall be
 obliged to see some of it to
 get something to eat yet I
 have managed to live so
 far but we are side tracked
 about a mile from the village
 and are on the train yet we
 got here at one o'clock last
 night and it is now
 eleven and we are still here

the Ambulance wagon and
 seven out of our company dropped
 on the road Art. Owens was
 one of the ones that dropped out
 and I noticed my Dear that
 the ones who started out of
 camp half drunk and a bottle
 in their pocket were the ones
 that dropped out thank the
 Lord I am free from the
 clutches of whiskey and any
 one that has ever bin a
 Soldier and did not have the
 appetite before they went into
 the army and got it after they
 joined need blame no one but
 themselves as they will have
 to make quite an effort to get
 it one man got a permit to
 go to Washington yesterday
 morning and he brought back
 about 5 Gallons to my knowledge

We left Washington about 11⁵ p.m. last night and did not stop until we reached Baltimore we were there about 15 minutes did not stop again until we got to York Pa. when we were transferred to another road and got into Pittsburg about 12 made a short stop there and then was sent on to Middletown and here we are and a slow drizzling rain is falling and we have a 2 mile march before us unless the report is true. The report is that the Major went except the camp ground staked out for us but dont know how true it is well I dont think of any more now but perhaps I can before I get a chance to send this or I forget to say that the order to march was countermanded and we were brought by train and we are on

where or how I will get this mailed or get a chance to send the money we cant trust any one to do it for us and there is no postal service here yet and I cant get out of camp because I am not sucker enough. We are in one of the finest places in the U.S. I think we are on the bank or a short distance from the Susquehanna River and on the opposite side there are mountains covered with trees and it is the prettiest sight I ever saw. The fields around us are as green as in spring nice farming country and very fine buildings and pieces of timber but we are camped in an open field a large meadow of about 50 or 75 acres in it. we are in sight of the Rail Road in fact there are 3 different roads Run along the River. When we

you going home tell Carrie I
 have inquired about the package
 she sent me but could get no
 trace of it ask her if it was
 properly addressed I was in
 hopes to get it as we have faced
 pretty slim for the last month
 and any thing beside some
 belly would be a treat to me
 I have plenty of money but
 we cant get any thing unless
 we pay twice its value and I
 wont do that as long as I can
 possibly live with out it some
 of the men have spent all their
 money and are borrowing all
 they can but I wont lend any
 more they get as much as I do
 and if they want to blow their
 money playing poker
 a buying whiskey they will
 have to get along the best they

Saturday 10.30

Dear ones I am well but nearly
 played out by hard work and hot
 fire as I have been put back on
 the working outfit again I had
 a big kick but it made a bad
 matter worse by doing it the
 less we say here the better we
 get off. We got off the train
 yesterday about noon did not
 get any thing to eat untill
 3 o'clock last night after leaving
 the train I was detailed to
 unload the baggage car and
 worked untill 3 o'clock at that
 when I went to camp and
 was put to getting something
 to eat for the men and only one
 man to help me so you can
 make up your mind I am
 about as near dead as I can
 be and work dont know

for I know you need all the money
I have for yourself and children
and I am more than anxious to send
it to you but there is no possible
chance and there is lots of chances
of having my it stolen if I don't sleep
more than half of the time nights
for fear of losing it so the sooner I
get rid of it the better I will
like for there are a dozen after me
every day to borrow it and if I have
to lie to them and say I haven't got
any well I have got to get to work
again at the dinner good by
Well sure I am again for a few
minutes I am was so sick of
anything in my life as I am
of this life we have our camp
established tents pitched and
ready to live again and now
we have orders to pull every-
thing up and move about 10
rods to one side and turn
one half around anything to
keep a soldier on the jump
all the time and then the

as it will do any good a sicker
lot of men you sees saw than
the 3rd Regiment N.Y. & G. is
and there is but few men but
would get out if possible but I
don't think but we will have
to serve our 2 years before we
get out but I hope not but the
Officers are making a big
thing out of this and they are
going to hold it down as long
as possible Will my Dear ones
I guess I will close this up
and send it when I get a
chance but can't tell when
that will be Willie I have
another piece of music for you
did not cost anything but
the music is there just the
same you must have quite
a stock on hand now and you
must be quite a good player
by this time hope you are all
well and having a good time
and I could have a good time

I think you will
be a long time before there will
be any good time for me to see
you from you as soon as
you get there for I haven't
heard from any one in a long
time only Mrs. Doolittle sent
me a lot of old newspapers
a week ago well good by
remembers me to all
the folks of West & Kessels to
say hello

Address Camp Meade.

Washington Pa.

15. 3. 1864

and address to Col. W.

Aug. 19

Officers have some one to be
around there is about 35 men
sick out of our company some
of them gone to the hospital
Company C lost a man about
a week ago and he was buried
at Fort Meyer near Washington
and another man from Co G
was taken away in a hearse
yesterday and it is reported
that a captain and a
sergeant in the first
Batalion have since they
have been detached from us
when we left Camp Alger
the other two Batalions of our
Regiment were at Pimmarid
but they haven't arrived here yet
the men in the 4 comp any
of our Batalion are getting up an
a petition to be mustered out
of the service but dont know

be there and
 put the right
 address on
 C. S. Lee
 J. W. C. J.
 Camp Meade
 Middletown
 Pa

Camp Meade Aug 22-98
 Dear Wife & Children
 Monday Morning Breakfast
 over dishes washed and well
 and hope this find you all
 the same & havent time to
 write much but am going
 to Harrisburg today if I
 can get my pass signed
 and will send you what
 money I can will keep \$2.00
 for myself I know I am
 rather extravagant but a
 few cents once in a while
 for milk goes pretty good
 and I want some stuff
 for cleaning clothes with
 so I can make more money

Bob

for ~~as~~ you ^{if} was in hopes
to bring the money myself
this time but it is impossible
to get a furlow now there
are so many sick and in
the Hospital and the Captain
says there is no one to take
my place a cooking as the
man who dose the cooking
when I was out is sick
Now please answer this as
soon as you possibly can and
let me know if you get it will
have the order made payable at
Cayville as you cant get
it at the bank good by
lots of love to you all and
Kisses also Remember me to all
tell Mary if cant get ans
back fast now but think
there will be some before
long tell me all about you

Camp Meade Aug 24 98
Dear Samra Billie & Ethel
I received 3 letters from you
yesterday and one today
and was glad to hear from
you and now I began to
think you had given me
up and was going to
let me go entirely but I
found it was not you
forgot our mail was in
a terrible mix up for some
time and that was the
reason I did not get your
letters. I received 6 letters
yesterday and one from you
today and expect another

Get them if I worked for it
and let her go and see what
she will do with it. I can't
say when I can come home
I asked the captain today and
he said he could tell anything
about when he could go so I guess
I will say no more about it
other have had furlons and
staid over their time and
nothing has bin done with
them and some have had to
go to the guard house for
from 5 to 20 days at
hard labor but as for as
hard labor goes I get that
now as the cooking all
rests on my shoulders now
but the men say the grub
is cooked the best since I
have bin at the head of the
cooking that they have had
in the las 2 months but
I shall get out as soon
as I possibly can as I don't

have as much time to wash
 when I am cooking as I do
 when I am drilling President
 McKinley is coming to
 review the troops next
 Saturday so I suppose we
 will all have to turn out
 and tramp for about 2 hours
 for him and when we get
 through he will say of how
 you under my thumb and
 I guess I will keep you until
 I want your vote and then
 you can do the best you can
 as I have no use for you now
 Will my Dear it is out of
 the question for me to come
 and go home with you with
 you could come here on the
 excursion but it would
 cost so much it cost \$6.00

tomorrow in answer to
 the money unless I sent
 you hope you had no trouble
 getting the money on the
 wish I could send you
 more and could of sent
 \$5.00 more but I kept it
 to blow in but will send
 a dollar to Willie for a
 birthday present as there
 is nothing I can get for
 her here that I think she
 needs and she can get
 something to wear or for
 school or any thing she like
 or if she dont need any thing
 of the kind put it in the
 bank for she may need
 something when she can
 get the money let her do
 as she likes with it if she
 wants to buy peanuts let her

to New York⁵ and return but
don't know what it would cost
from there down here (that is
from Oswego) No I cant come
now the Officers think I
would have to go a time they
have been home and they dont
care for the men one man
came back this morning and
his pass run out Sunday
noon but nothing has been
done with him 2 more men
sent of away with leave
was gone two days and one
night they are free but if
I should do any thing of
the kind of would surely
get the guard house

Major Hall is no better
than the rest of have no
confidence in him any more
this war is a political and
money making schem
for a few high muckety
mucks and they are playing

especially 7 the officers of
Co D. This country around
here is the finest I ever saw
an Officers has just
ordered the light post
out so will have to do
it as I wont have time
to write any in the morning
I will close so good by
kiss children for me
remember me to all and
lots of love to yourself

B. H. K.

their costs well if wish you
could come here and see the
men eat and what they have
to eat and then go and see
the officers or slave drivers
eat and what they have to
eat they they sit at a table
and have all kinds of luxury
and where do they get it they
say they are paying \$3.00 a
week for their board but
it is not so the men are
forced to eat sow belly and
hard tack and the luxury
they should get or exchanged
for something better for the
man drivers of have no
love or honor for them only
as we are forced to honor
them here but when we get
out of this outfit they can
go well if want now here

Camp Meade Aug 28 98
Dear Wife & Children
I haven't received the letter I had
been looking for yet, and that is
the one I sent the P.O. orders in
haven't you got them yet, if you
have let me hear from you at
once as I am fretting about them
it is money that cost me
to march hard work to lose
so much of it. Well I haven't
much to say but I am
homesome and tired have been
on the jump ever since I
reached this morning and it
is nearly 9 now and I'm
at that that Sunday is not
better than any other day in

Army if you for a³ time the two flat
about home to day did not ask for
a furlow until yesterday and I
have been trying to get one ever
since Father sent the money to
one of finds the better a man tries
to do his duty the fewer favors
he gets so I wish I will get ordered
and put in the guard house and
then away to if you get a furlow
home our camp army is all broke
up there are so many sick there
is about 30 of cholera in the hospital
now some of them are very sick
and others are just putting it
on so they can get a furlow
home for 30 days as that is
what some of them get I don't
want to be sick but if I must
come home, but don't want to
come back here again. Well I
will have to close us talk to you
and will put out the light before
the officer comes and orders it out
as he did the other night and I
will have no time to

arrive in the morning. Eddie
Pearcy is quite sick but please
don't say anything about it as
his folks will know it as he
feels some better tonight he is
not in the Hospital if the
Doctor was any good they would
not be so much sicker but
all they want is their money
they don't care anything about
the men of G for god's sake
Oh where I mean is the other
one who went home perhaps
you will see him well if will
close so good by and let me
hear from you all kisses for you
all and god bless you all

From your miserable soldier
Father + Husband

Bob Hicks

Middleton Pa Camp Meade

Co E, 7 Reg, 154 Inf, 98 Div

this outfit the men have to
eat just the same as any
other day and as a generalth
we have to make an extra effort
as we to get as good a dinner as
possible and then it is poor
out of what we have to get.

The most important thing we
have to say tonight is send
something to eat there is one
the men went home today he
will come there his name is
Willie Pandy and he lives down
by the front near a kitchen
and he said he would bring
send some fruit cakes and a
chocolate cake if you can and
want to be to pray for him to
carry put baby's hand in the
top of the cap and if will be
it when you get it as a request
is as near as I can get to this

I want to know about him at
 know. I don't think he is
 he is tomorrow and let you
 will try and find out where
 keep for me for if found it and
 it is just what I want to trim
 trees with when I get home
 from the war Laura I want
 to tell you something about Ted
 and do as you think best
 about telling his folks. I
 heard today he was quite sick
 with a fever he was taken
 to the division hospital the first
 of the week and the report
 is he has been sent to a
 hospital in Philadelphia
 but I can't say for certain
 there was 3 more sent to
 the hospital today and
 another goes in the morning

any thing about his being sick
Ed didn't want me to make
There was a man named
Thomas in our company and
he died yesterday he was sent
home had a relapse and died
in a Syracuse hospital yesterday
with a fever. Well Billie I
haven't heard from you in some
time but suppose you are being
taking care of Ethel hope she
is well by this time. and
how does Ben like to have you
back does he come home or stay
with Walker Well I must
close and go to bed so good
night and write soon her
Kinsey bin there yet. Remember
me to all and tell Mr Edwards
I can beat him one game for
four money or marbles
Well Kinsey for you all tell
Charles I will write to him
soon and excuse me he out

Camp Meade Sept 6 1898

Dear Wife & Family

Received the box & tea yesterday
many thanks for these and
Received your letters today
found me well and hope
this finds you the same
I was laid up Sunday
with a head ache but I am
alright now I don't know
when I have felt any more
encouraged than I have for
the last 4 or 5 days I suppose
it is because I expect to see
you all some time in the
course of another month
every thing is pretty some
now and the minutes I get

these if there was I would go
and sell him but the captain
says there is no one to cook
if I should go away but
he did let me go Monday to
Harrisburg to get the trunk that
Owen brought the stuff from
home in Owen said it was
to heavy to handle alone but
I handled it alone and had
to carry it 3 block on my
back to get it on the street
car and then I had to pay
30 cents car fare for it beside
my own car fare from here &
return the Cape & Peaches
were all right and would
have enjoyed them very much
but some one stole the peaches
and all the cookies but 2
and all the Fried Cakes but
3 the Cakes was all right they
didn't touch it but the
tea is going pretty fast I am

trying to doctor up 3 of the
men who are in their quarters
cooking something extra and
giving them some tea now
The Co. M knows I have tea
and last night he asked me
to put in a little extra for him
and I did so told him to help
himself when he got ready and
he did, and when I went for
some there was none there
so I told him if he wanted
tea he had better buy a little
and put in a little extra for
me but he hasn't got it
yet Well you will have to
write the short letter as I
am to mess played out to
sit up very late tonight and
I have written to Mrs Peavy
so will close with love to all
hope I can see you all soon
I will have some more money
for you soon good night B. B. K

out of this the better I do
like it and I guess that is the
case with the most of the
men especially the Privates
Well I will tell you all I
can about Ed. I wrote to
his mother all about how
he is in Philadelphia don't
know how sick he is but
he looks awfully bad when he
left here but it is reported
that the Soldiers get the
best of care and have any
thing they want that will
not hurt them there was
one of Co D men here the
morning that came from
a hospital there but Ed
was not in the game and
he was he did not know
Ed was there at all and there
is no chance for me to go

September 9, 1898

To be understood part of the
 evening we were
 gone, but above
 of field and the
 morning and
 that looks as if
 we would have
 soon. Well if
 you write me
 some of things
 well be home to all
 you all of them
 had from 5 of yesterday
 to go. During and
 well good by father
 it good to hearing to
 all you soon

W.R.

Camp Meade Sept 9
 I am family
 of harvest should never but the
 will drop a few times to you
 saying I am well & hope this
 with friends you all the same
 but I had been sick for a
 few days but am all right
 as a rule I am a good deal of
 more scared than hurt of
 was afraid of river coming
 down with a fever but am
 all right. I sent a box by
 express this morning and not
 pay charges as the express
 man did not know how
 much it would be but
 he said it would not be

over \$25 and if report of will be
have some time next week and
if wanted the box then when I
arrive before Perry's stuff is in
there so perhaps you better not
take any thing out untill I
come and then it wont get mixed
up if hear you will leave her Sunday
night but dont know how true it
is if have some money but will
keep it for a few days and if we
dont get out of here by Wednesday
I will send Joe P. M. order to you
the 22 Row of barracks left here
this P. M. and if report we will
go next at least that is the
report. You dont try to wash
any clothes untill I come then
you can help you as I understand
we will get a 30 day furlow
and then we will have to report
back at Troy N. Y. at that time

Envelopes
And
Discharge Papers

Envelopes of letters sent to Laura

- May 6, 1898 To: Mrs. B. L. Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Hempstead 8:00am, 2 cent stamp
Rec'd Menitto May ()
- May (), 1898 To: Mrs. Burton Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Hempstead 8:00 (am/pm)
Rec'd Menitto May 25, 4:00pm
- June 6, 1898 To: Miss. Lillie Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Washington D.C. 10:30am
Rec'd Menitto June 7, 9:00am
- June 8, 1898 To: Mrs. Burton L. Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Washington D.C. 5:00pm, 2 cent stamp
Rec'd Menitto June 9, 4:00pm
- July 8, 1898 To: Mrs. B. L. Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Washington D.C. 8:30pm
Rec'd Menitto June (), 7:00am
- July 18, 1898 To: Mrs. B. L. (torn envelope)
From: Washington D.C.
Rec'd Menitto July 19, 4:00pm
- July 20, 1898 To: Mrs. B. L. Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Washington D.C. 10:00pm
Rec'd Menitto July 22, 9:00am
- Aug. 4, 1898 To: Mrs. Burton L. Rider, Sanquoit, Onida Co., N.Y.
Care E. E. Rider (*Left bottom of envelope*)
From: Washington D.C. 9:00pm
- Aug. 7, 1898 To: Mrs. Burton Rider, Cedar Lake, Herkmer Co., N.Y.
From: Washington D.C. 8:00pm, 2 cent stamp
(*Other stamps: Binghamton Aug. 8, 6:30pm, Utica Aug. (), 12:30pm and Cedar Lake - no date*)
- Aug. 9, 1898 To: Miss Lillie Rider, Cedar Lake, Herkmer Co., N.Y.
Care E.E. Rider (*Left bottom of envelope*)
From: Washington D.C. 10:30pm, Forwarded to: Sanquoit
Aug. 11, 10:00am, Utica Aug. 14, 12:30pm, Cedar Lake
- Aug. 26, 1898 To: Mrs. Burton L. Rider, Sanquoit, Onida Co., N.Y.
From: Middletown, Pa. 6:00pm
Rec'd Sanquoit Aug. (2_)
- Sept. 9, 1898 To: Mrs. Burton Rider, Menitto, Oswego Co., N.Y.
From: Harrisburg, Pa. 8:00pm
Rec'd Menitto Sept. 12, 9:00am

May 5

HEMPSTEAD
MAY
1898
8AM
N.Y.



Mrs B. B. Rice.
Minetta.
Orange Co.
N.Y.

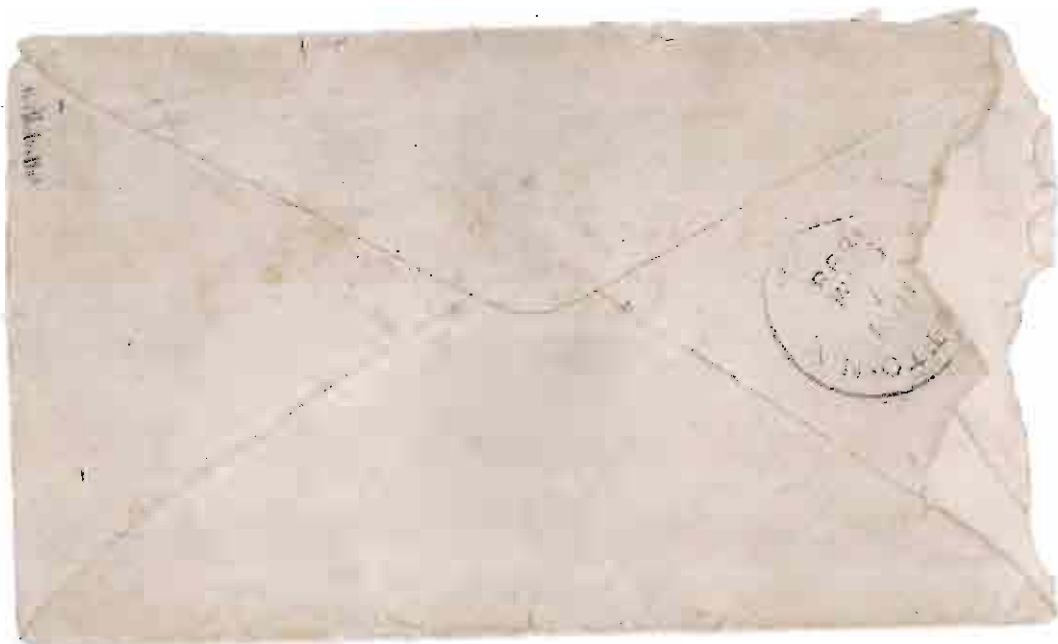
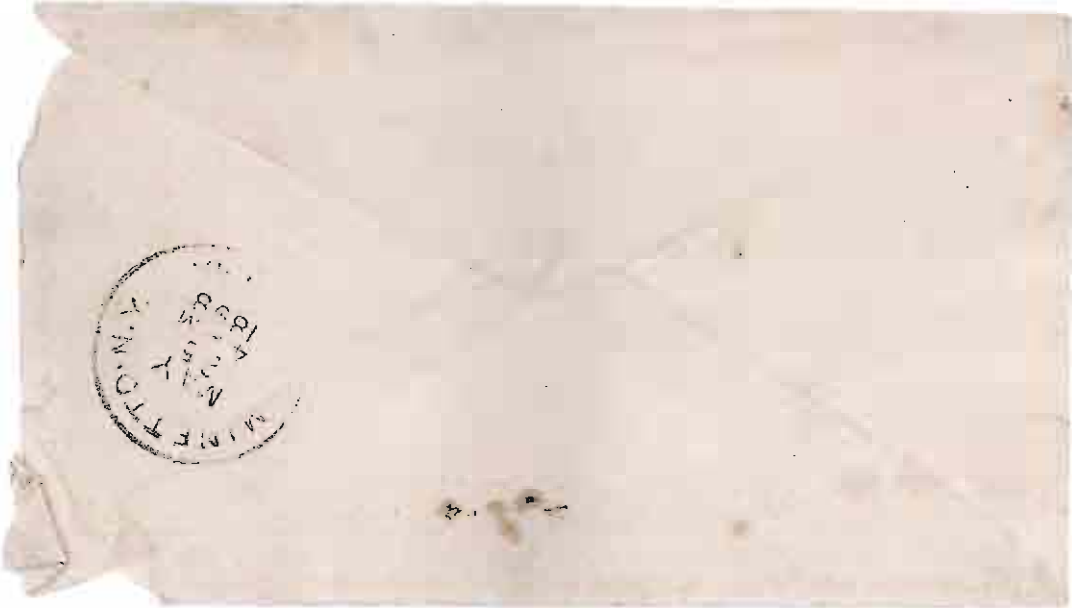
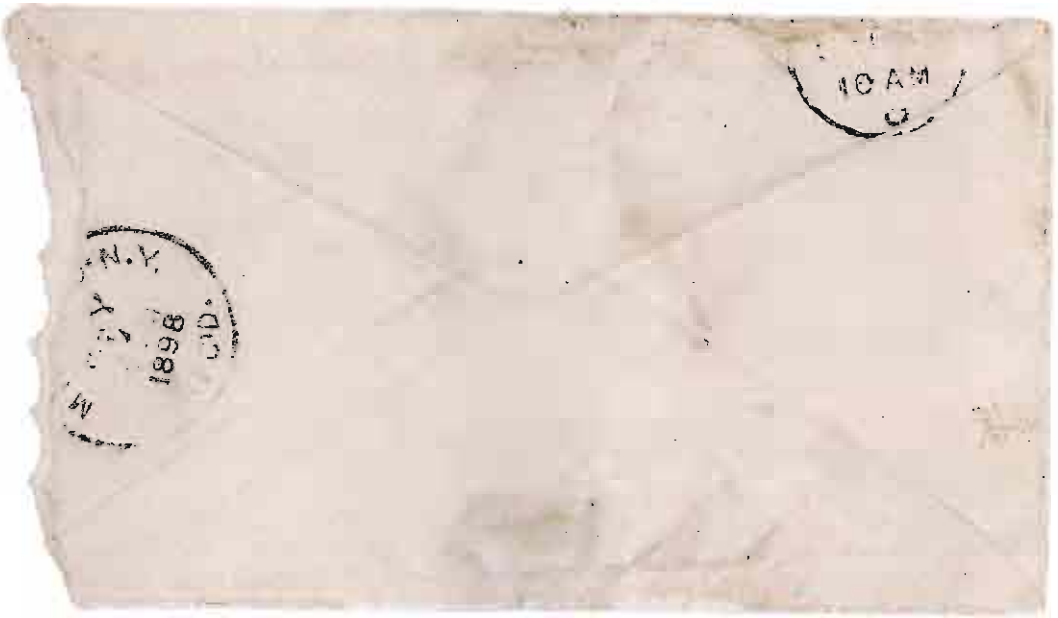
Mrs. E. Mrs.
Mrs. Burton Kim
Minetta.
Orange Co.
N.Y.

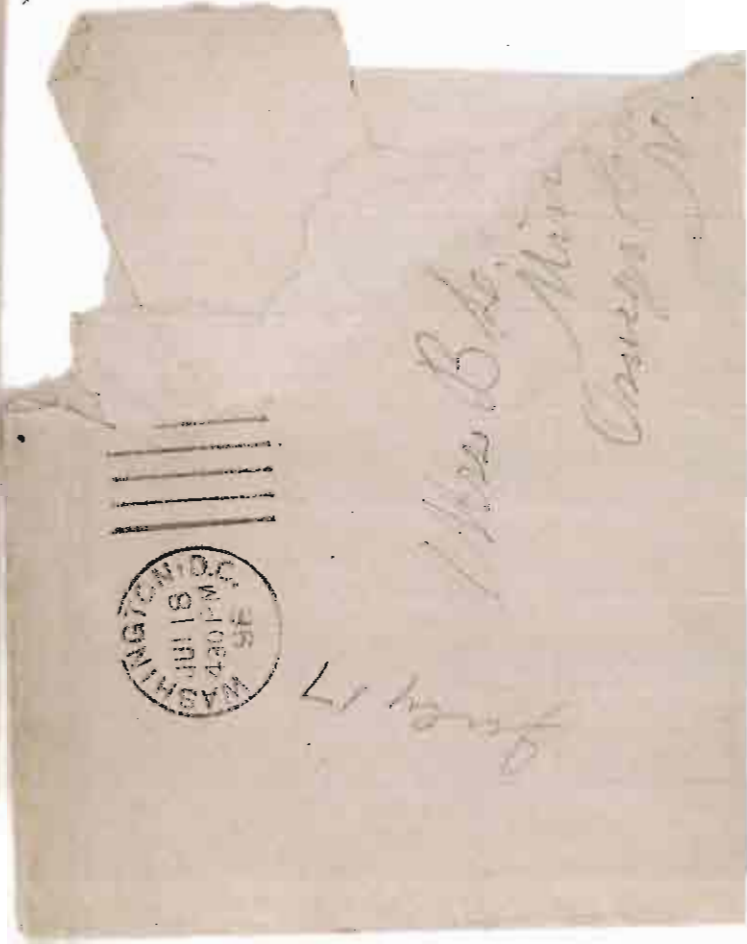
HEMPSTEAD
MAY
1898
N.Y.

WASHINGTON
D.C.
JUN 6 1030AM '98

Mrs. B. B. Rice.
Minetta.
Orange Co.
N.Y.

June 4



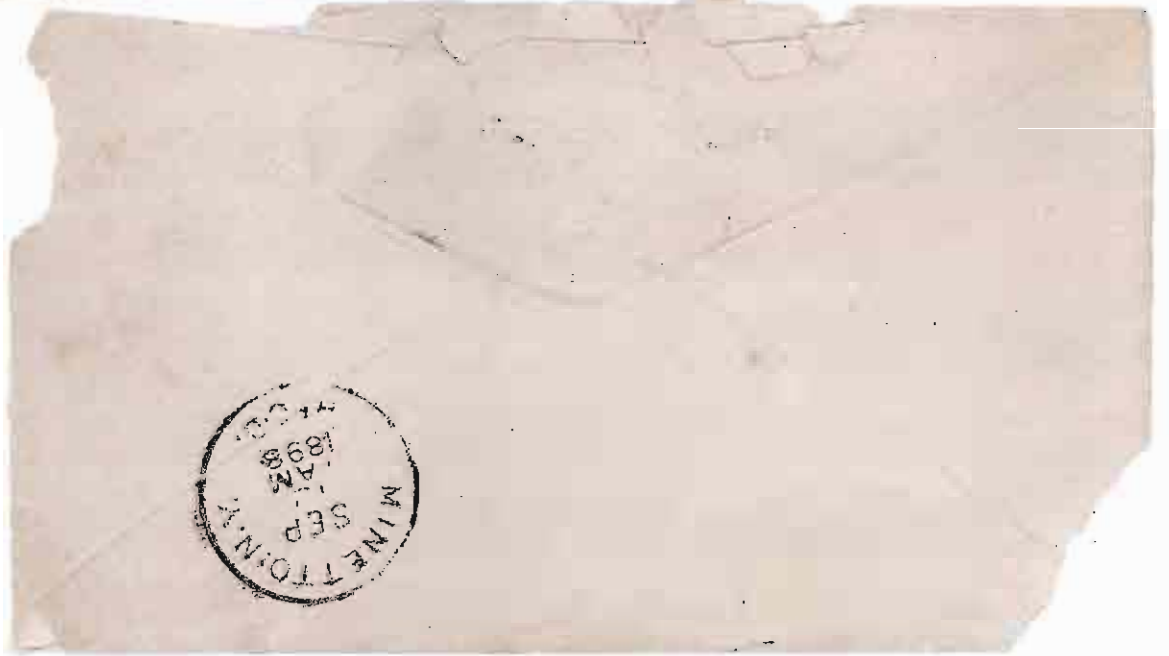
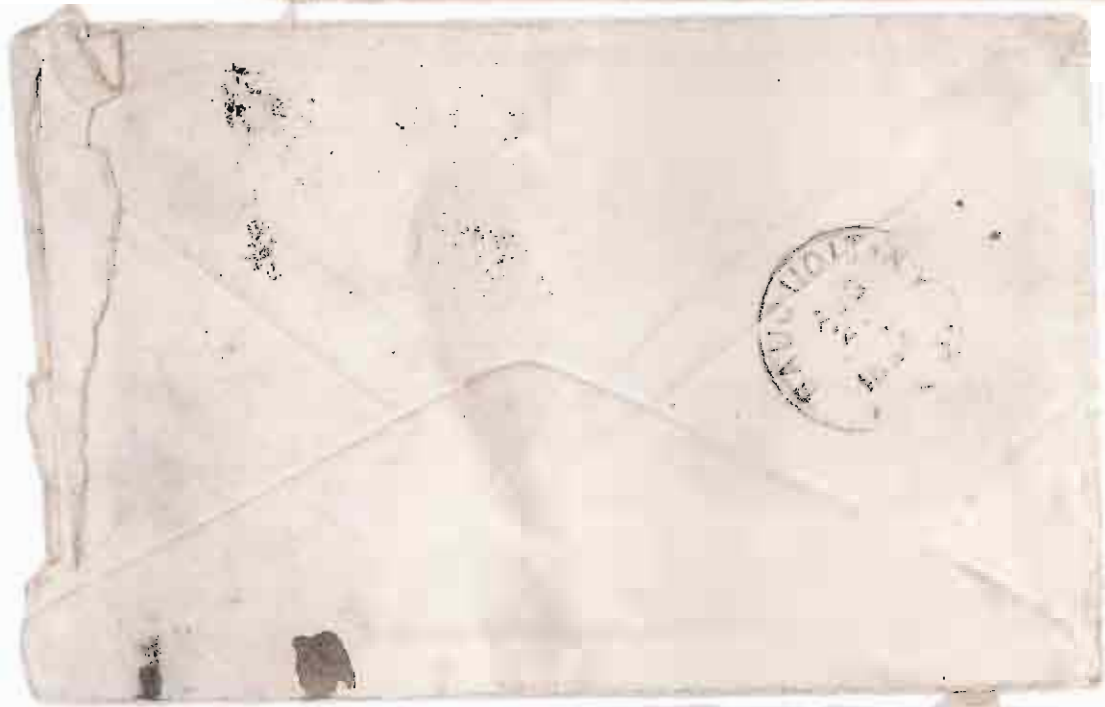
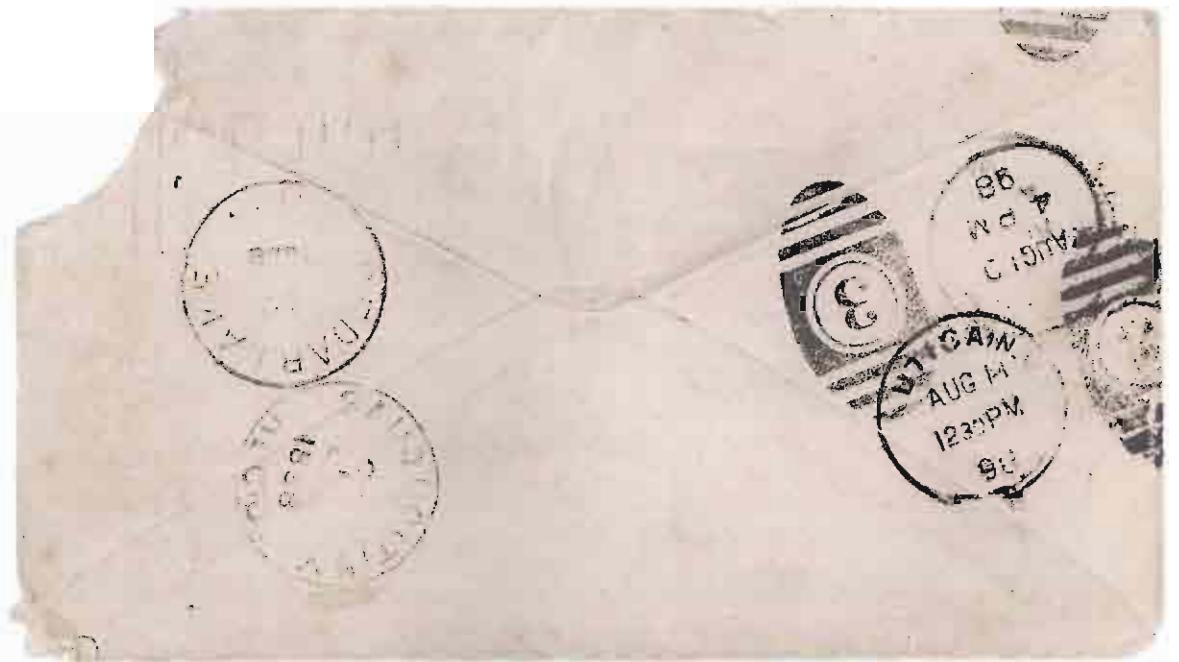












CERTIFICATE IN LIEU OF LOST OR DESTROYED

DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE



To all Whom it May Concern:

Know ye, That Burton L. Rider, a Private
of Company D, Third Regiment
New York Infantry, Volunteers, who was enrolled
on the first day of May, one thousand eight
hundred and ninety-eight, at Orwego, New York,
to serve two years, was Honorably Discharged
from the service of the United States on the first day of December,
one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, by reason of
muster out of the company.

This Certificate is given under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 1, 1902,
"to authorize the Secretary of War to furnish certificates in lieu of lost or destroyed discharges," to
honorably discharged officers or enlisted men or their widows, upon evidence that the original discharge
certificate has been lost or destroyed, and upon the condition imposed by said Act that this certificate
"shall not be accepted as a voucher for the payment of any claim against the United States for pay,
bounty, or other allowances, or as evidence in any other case."

Given at the War Department, Washington, D. C., this fifteenth day of
December, one thousand nine hundred and thirty.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

Ernest Ragan
Adjutant General.

State of New York
George (b) (6), ss:

Recorded on the 19

day of Dec, 1980 at

212 o'clock A.M., in book No.

3 of S. D. at page

101 and examined.

Alfred C. Williams
Clerk

DEC 19 10 32 AM '80



State of New York:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Know Ye, that ⁽¹⁾ Burlen L. Rider,
 a ⁽²⁾ Private, of ⁽³⁾ 48th Separate Company,
 N. G., N. Y., enlisted on the ⁽⁴⁾ fifteenth day of ⁽⁵⁾ February
 one thousand ⁽⁶⁾ eight hundred ninety eight, to serve ⁽⁷⁾ five years
 years, having complied with the Military Code and the Regulations of this State,
 is hereby, under the provisions of such Military Code and Regulations,

HONORABLY DISCHARGED

and relieved from further service in the Military and Naval Forces of the State,
 except in the case of INSURRECTION or INVASION; and exempt forever from JURY
 DUTY.

Given, under my hand at ⁽⁸⁾ Oswego, N. Y. this ⁽⁹⁾ twenty sixth
 day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and
⁽¹⁰⁾ three

⁽¹¹⁾ A. M. Hall
⁽¹²⁾ Major Commanding ⁽¹³⁾ 3rd Battalion

⁽¹⁴⁾ Francis D. Leuebi
⁽¹⁵⁾ Captain Commanding ⁽¹⁶⁾ 48th Sep. Co.

NOTE.—(1) Name of soldier in full; (2) grade; (3) signal corps, company, battery, troop, battalion, regiment; (4) G. [National Guard] or M. [Naval Militia]; (5) date; (6) period; (7) place of headquarters; (8) signature of battalion, regimental or brigade commander; (9) grade; (10) organization; (11) signature; (12) commanding officer of signal corps, troop, battery or company; captain or lieutenant commanding, and organization.

Letters
from Laura
to Burt

Letters from Laura Rider to Burt

(By the text, we believe it was written on July 13 as it was a Wednesday and he answered her questions in his July 17 letter)

Dear Burt

- Wednesday night.** I Feel like having a talk with you tonight. How I would like to have you here so we would see your face. I am quite tired tonight. This morning I ironed and this afternoon I have been sewing. Finished my new calico wrapper. Monday when I went to the city I spent more money for myself. Think I have about all I need now. I am so thankful too for some good things to wear. You are very good to work so hard to give us pleasure. I got one finished for a shirt-waist and a skirt to
- (2) go with it, two new aprons and baby a white dress and a calico one. Mabel Banks gave her a calico also and I have just made her a new one. Shall make her new night dresses and she will have to have a bonnet. Then I guess she will be all ready for C.L. There are so many things to get and make if I go. Charlie says if I don't go some where he will. He is very down hearted again over everything. The belts are lovely. I have wondered what kind of a belt to get to go with my satin shirt-waist and now you sent me just the thing. The buttons are pretty with it too. How is your
 - (3) face? I have worried lots about it. Am so sorry is it poison ivy? I haven't been to get the post office order cashed yet. How nice it seems to have money to pay up our debts. If you (sure) like some, it would not all get to me. I am thinking shall pay about a month ahead on the loan and pay Charlie the rest. Think I'll finish up his debt soon then what shall I pay? There is five dollars coming from (*the cow*) yet that will pay the cow pasture. Do the band need the money you owe them here? I don't know
 - (4) much about the band only that Frank D. and John are put out of it. Labor Day the Factory picnic is at Maple Bay. Mary C. wrote to me today. Says to come any time. The whooping cough is there but I can find places to stay where it is not. (*Elte*) was home when she wrote Uncle Edd is not well has heart disease. Lorn has (*ser*) man. She is helping him. Think we will go to Oswego tomorrow and will send your revolver by express and have our picture taken. I don't seem to have anything to send you. If you think of something let me know. Baby's spoon came today. I don't know what to
 - (5) take to Carrie. Our pictures well be nice and you're – how nicely they are finished. Wish you could have seen baby. She put out her little hands for it and said Papa, Papa and kissed it two or three times. Last night she did the same again when she saw it on the desk. I can't think she remembers and still it looks like it. I went to missionary meeting with Mrs. Rappleye last night. Took Ethel and you should have heard them praise her. She did act so cunning all the eve had her little arms up over

(6) her head and run. We were at Lizzie Burts and she put her arm around Sam and laid her little curly head down on his and they said if they only could have her picture like that. Hope her picture will be good. Guess we can't take Ben. Charlie says he thinks the factory will shut down next week. He will stay here and keep (*Bachelors*) hall. Think he looks forward to having a great time without us. He wants one of your pictures for Miss Crouch. He said T. Hickney was much pleased with his. Guess I'll take the rest and give them to C.L. folks. Yours taken here take the cake (*Up side*) though. I like it better than any you ever had.

(*Top of page 1 sideways*) I feel so glad that I did not take help from Page now. Of course I may have to yet but wouldn't it make you feel better when you get home to feel that you took care of us instead of getting help of them? Any way they were good to offer and I can get it any time I ask for it.

(*Top of page 1 upside down left*) Write and tell us how you are. I don't see how you write so many letters.

(*Top of page 2 and down side*) Guess I'll have to go to bed with the children. Don't work over hot fire. () wash to get your blood heated until your face is better for doctor too.

(*Top of page 3 sideways*) Lillie has finished her letter and says she is going to bed. You better send me money instead of Lillie until our debts are paid. I am so anxious to help you do this with the money you work so hard for.

(*Top of page 4 upside down and down right side*) When you come home it will be so nice to have the little debts paid up. Don't you think so?

(*Right side of page 4*) good night I do want to see you so much. All say they think war is about over. Yours lovingly, Lottie.

(*Top of page 5 sideways*) Baby has gone to bed with her rag baby. She had been in the boat and bothering me and Mrs. Karboth when they were playing croquet. Charlie makes quite a little of her.

First part of letter missing

(Probably written July 14 as he asks about his watch in his July 12 letter and answered her question in his July 17 letter)

We have had quite a lot of blackcaps out of the garden and Charlie picked a dish of red raspberries. I bought some of Mrs. *(Jemie)* today to can. Have had peas out of the garden. Charlie has the garden looking beautiful. Think we'll call on Mrs. Brooks tomorrow. *(Kirye)* think lots of Ethel too. Mrs. Hechny was here the other day. Sent her love to you. Fred Warren is home. He has a yellow mustache and is another Fred Symonds right over. I got your watch at Mersdens. I could have kissed it because it just came from you and it looked so natural. I hear Alec R. is Corporal. Nice for him. I feel sorry for you, hope you will get with the band right away. I hate to have any one

(Up side) find fault with your cooking.

OTHER SIDE OF PAGE

(Lillie's letter, center in pencil) and bothered if his father went away. Perhaps he wouldn't care but I do. Well it is about 9 o'clock so guess I will close. Good bye from Lillie. Be sure and come home as soon as you can. L.G.R.

(Top of page sideways) Mr. *(Jemie)* says their berries will not yield half if it does not rain. It is also very warm though and the nights are cool. Have you your new suits yet? Good night again. L

(Bottom of page sideways) Everyone asks about you, even Mr. Beothert. He peddles vegetables. Did I tell you Nat Parker had a boy? Sorry you didn't find Will in W. B. Mead is working for Mr. Edwards all the time. Mr. & Mrs. Shepherd wagon broke down the other day and they have both girls badly hurt. Do you have new potatoes? We have had some once bought them. The () look good in the garden.

(Center, right side of page) We need rain badly. The well is about dry and the cistern has been pumped.

(Middle of letter upside down) It seemed like Christmas when I came home Monday night and found all these things here from you. Charlie handed me one at a time. Would never stop coming *(thank you)*. Bye dear for all.

Italics in brackets are a guess at the word. Empty brackets indicate we're unable to decipher the word

I have written to
 you several times
 and saye
 I am sorry to
 hear you
 feel your
 better and
 your memory
 will get better
 but I wish
 our children
 and family
 of am so
 sorry you
 to help you
 do it as best
 if you
 say what
 you wish
 I am
 your
 friend
 III

I have written to
 you several times
 and saye
 I am sorry to
 hear you
 feel your
 better and
 your memory
 will get better
 but I wish
 our children
 and family
 of am so
 sorry you
 to help you
 do it as best
 if you
 say what
 you wish
 I am
 your
 friend
 III

I have written to
 you several times
 and saye
 I am sorry to
 hear you
 feel your
 better and
 your memory
 will get better
 but I wish
 our children
 and family
 of am so
 sorry you
 to help you
 do it as best
 if you
 say what
 you wish
 I am
 your
 friend
 III

I have written to
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 I am sorry to
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 but I wish
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 and family
 of am so
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 to help you
 do it as best
 if you
 say what
 you wish
 I am
 your
 friend
 III

He had not seen - he was at
 in the streets and she put her
 down around him and laid
 her little curly head down
 on his and they said it
 was only could hear the
 picture like that. The
 picture will be good. Guess
 he can't take Ben - Charles
 says he thinks a factory
 will shut - down next
 week. He will stay here and
 take teacher's hall. I think he
 will go to Harniss
 next time. I don't know
 want one of your pictures
 he Miss Couch. He said
 to Harniss was much
 pleased with us - guess
 I'll take the rest - except
 give them to C. L. Folger
 your letter here later it says

as far as you can get a lot of black caps
out of the garden and Charlie
found a dirt of red nightingale
I bought some of Mrs. Jennie
bought to you - here had her's
out of the garden - Charlie has
the garden looking beautiful
with red caps on the banks
Lorraine says I think a lot of
it - but the Mrs. Stearns was here
the other day, and she says you
had a garden is home he has a
yellow mustache and is another
Tommy's name's right one.
I got you a lot of - I
I could not have found it - because
it just came from you - and
it looked so natural I had to
be so careful - nice for him -
I feel every for you hope you
will get - quite the best right
now - I had to have a few more

and brothered, of his father
perhaps he
Well, it is about 10 o'clock
I guess I will close.
Good bye
Love
Lillie
Be sure and come
home as soon as you
can. S.P.P.

1898

January

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
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February

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March

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April

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May

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June

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July

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August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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Burton L. Rider

The funeral of Burton L. Rider, 80 West Eighth street, Oswego, was held from the home of his mother, Elmer Rider, Saugquoit, N. Y., Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Rev. Albert G. Judd of Ilion, former pastor of First Methodist church, this city, officiated. The large gathering of relatives and friends and the profusion of beautiful floral tributes gave evidence of the esteem and regard in which Mr. Rider was held. A unit of Spanish War Veterans from Utica held their ritualistic service at the grave in Cedar Lake cemetery and a firing squad and bugler fired the final volley and sounded taps.

The bearers were Glen Lloyd, Arthur Jones, Albert Kennedy, Frank Bennett, Milton Light and George Halligan.

Burton L. Rider

The Utica Observer Dispatch of Sunday carries the following relative to the death of Burton L. Rider, 180 West Eighth street, who died from injuries received by falling from a barn at Chadwicks Thursday last:

"Accidental death is the verdict given by Dr. Gordon A. Holden, Utica, coroner, in the fatal injuries suffered by Burton L. Ryder, 73, following an examination yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Ryder died yesterday forenoon, June 8, 1935, in Faxon hospital, Utica, as a result of a fractured skull and crushed chest, suffered in a 12-foot fall from the scaffold while re-roofing the barn on the farm of his brother, Elmer, two miles from this village, on the Roberts road.

The accident occurred Thursday and the man was removed to the hospital in critical condition with little hope held for his recovery. He was attended by Dr. E. M. Griffith of this village.

Burton L. Ryder was born in the town of Litchfield, May 3, 1862, son of William and Carolyn Slade Ryder, where he passed his boyhood. He attended the schools of that township. Later for several years he worked as a farmer and for the past 30 years he followed the occupation of carpenter.

Forty years ago Mr. Ryder moved to Oswego, where he had since resided. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he enlisted and served in the United States Army until the end of the conflict.

He married Lottie Goodier of Litchfield, July 22, 1885, who survives with a daughter, Mrs. Harry Underwood, of Los Angeles, Calif.; three brothers, Elmer and Fred, Saugquoit, and Leon, of Iowa, besides six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

BURTON L. RIDER BADLY INJURED

Hurt in Fall From Barn Near Utica Thursday.

CHADWICKS, June 7.—Falling 12 feet from a scaffolding on a barn which he was re-roofing, Burton L. Rider, 73, 150 West Eighth street, Oswego, is in a critical condition in Faxon Hospital, Utica.

He is suffering from a fractured skull and a crushed chest.

The mishap took place Thursday morning on the farm of his brother, Elmer E. Rider, located on the Roberts road, about two miles from this village.

The W. H. Plak ambulance was called and the man was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Rider, who is a carpenter by occupation, left Oswego one week ago for Chadwicks to assist his brother in roofing the barn. He had just started work when the accident happened. Mrs. Rider left Thursday afternoon for Chadwicks.

Mr. Rider is a Spanish War veteran, serving with the 48th Separate Company.

buried at St. Peter's cemetery.

Burton L. Rider

Burton L. Rider, 73, of 150 West Eighth street, died early Saturday morning in Faxon hospital, Utica, from injuries received in falling from a scaffolding while making repairs to the roof of a barn at Chadwicks, N. Y., Thursday morning. He suffered a fracture of the skull and crushed chest. Mr. Rider was born at Cedar Lake, N. Y., and was a carpenter by trade. He came to Oswego nearly 40 years ago and was a member of First Methodist church and of the Carpenters' Union. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War, having served with the 48th Separate Company. The death of Mr. Rider will be sincerely regretted by his many friends in Oswego, among whom he was highly esteemed. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Lottie Rider, one daughter, Mrs. Harry Underwood, of Los Angeles, Calif., six grandchildren and two great grandchildren and three brothers, Fred and Elmer Rider of Nodaway, wicks and Leon Rider of Nodaway, Iowa.

Funeral and burial will be held Wednesday at 2 o'clock at Cedar Lake, N. Y.

WHITE—Entered into rest at Strong Memorial hospital, Rochester, Sept. 19, 1931. Ethel C. Rider, wife of Warren W. White of Pittsford, N. Y., and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burton C. Rider, 150 West Eighth street, Oswego, aged 31 years. Funeral Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 2 p. m. from the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Ernest White, 15 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford.

Mrs. Warren W. White

Oswego friends will grieve at the death of Mrs. Ethel C. Rider White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burton C. Rider of Oswego, and wife of Warren W. White of Pittsford, N. Y., near Rochester. She passed away at Strong Memorial hospital, Rochester, Saturday morning. Her parents were called to her bedside Thursday.

Mrs. White was 34 years old, and resided and was educated in Oswego. She graduated from the Oswego High school and the Oswego State Normal and Training school. Practicing her profession as a teacher she was connected with the schools of Pittsford for some years. She met and married Mr. White there.

Surviving Mrs. White, who was very highly regarded because of her many graces and kindly disposition, are her husband, a son, Allen Lester, six months old; her parents and one sister, Mrs. Harry Underwood, Los Angeles, Calif., also several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are to be held Tuesday, September 22, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Ernest White, 15 Lincoln avenue, Pittsford.

W. H. McCray, 78, Dies; Retired Contractor

William H. McCray, 78, of 223 Sixth street S.E., retired building contractor, died Monday night in the Washington Sanitarium, Takoma Park, Md., after an illness of several months.

Mr. McCray had long been prominent in the Masonic fraternity. He was a member and past master of King David Lodge, F. A. A. M.; a past high priest of Hiram Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; past master of Washington Council, Royal and Select Masters, and past commander of the Washington Commandery, Knights Templar. He also was a member of Almas Temple of the Shrine, a past president of the Convention of Anointed High Priests and of the Masonic Veterans' Association of the District of Columbia. He was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District.

A native of Chenango County, N. Y., Mr. McCray came to Washington in 1869 and engaged in the building contracting business. He retired in 1939.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Jessie Benjamin McCray, and a daughter, Mrs. Harriet McCray Dickinson.

Funeral services will be held at 8 p.m. today in Gawler's chapel, 1750 Pennsylvania avenue N.W. Knights Templar services will be held. Burial will be at Cortland, N. Y., at 2 p.m. Friday.

husband of
Grandma Rider's
sister