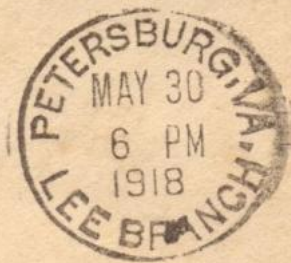


Letter to Parents
May 30, 1918



"WITH THE COLORS"



Mr. John Godwin
Smithfield
Va.

38 Company
10 Training Battalion
155 Depot Brigade
Camp Lee
Va



38 Company
10 Training Battalion
155 "WITH THE COLORS"



Camp Lee Va.
May 30, 1918.

Dear Papa & Mama,

As today is a National holiday we don't have to work quite so hard, and besides there are not many in this Co. who are able to work today. Yesterday we had to cross the camp ground, which was about four miles I guess, take physical examination, then were innoculated and vaccinated, and then were mustered into service. We left ~~to~~ our barrack about 12 o'clock and got back that night about 9:30 had to march all the way back through a pouring rain but most of us had dry clothes to put on. The whole days' experience beat all I ever went through. When the examination and vaccination was going on it wasn't anything to see a man fall out, I could

2

hear some hit the floor clear across the room, some dropped out all along the road side, they were brought in on a truck. I held my nerves together and got along alright. I passed examination, they claim that I'm alright, some of Isle of Wight boys were rejected none that I was acquainted with. I took out the Army insurance, all of the boys did that.

We are very well cared for I have a cot, bed sack with straw in it, and two sets of blankets, then two tin plates, knife, fork, spoon and drinking cup. Each one has to wash his own dishes and keep them with him on or near his cot. There is some stir around when we go out to wash dishes. They put most of our boys in another barrack. I see them sometime though. Rob Stallings, John Lykes, Allie Korne, Norman Beale, Taylor Butler and Shepard Adams are about all I know well, that are in the barrack with me, but am learning new ones every day. We lined up this morning and



"WITH THE COLORS"



3

organized the Co into squads of eight
my corporal is from Suffolk, he
seems to be real good natured, I
think he weighs about 250 lbs.

I am second tallest man in 38-
Co. well, the other fellow isn't any
taller than I am but he is larger,
so he is the first man in the front
line and I am second.

Our Sergeant is the finest man
I've seen up here, I only hope we
won't be transferred, I haven't heard
him say a cross word to any body
he is just positive with all. He is real good
looking, favors James Jordan a little,
but has iron gray hair.

The first day I was here I was
sick, but I wouldn't get on the
sick list that morning because they
would have carried me to the hospital
and would have to stay there all
day and I didn't want to do that.

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so after a while I told the Sergeant that I was sick, so he told me that I might stay around or in the house all day and not go out in the sun, that suited me exactly.

There are more people here than any one place I've ever been and they are bringing in new ones every day.

I took out my first washing Tuesday, washed some more today.

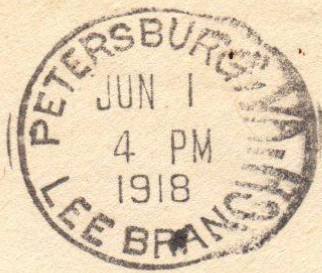
I haven't been in the kitchen to cook yet but my time is coming.

We have potatoes three times a day have soup, beans, beef hash, sausage (horse) I guess. but we don't get much hog meat when you get that its in small pieces. I heard a fellow sitting close to me say at one meal that he didn't believe they gave him any meat, but then he said he had just turned a bean over and found his meat under it. I think they are Velvet beans that we get. I can make out very well with what I eat. Someone said I was fattening up already.

Will have to stop now
Love to all.

Paul

Letter to Father
May 31, 1918



Mr John Godwin
Smithfield
Va

P. GODWIN.
38 Company
147th Battalion
155 Depot Brigade
Camp Lee
Va

NATIONAL
WAR WORK COUNCIL
ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"WITH THE COLORS"



"WITH THE COLORS"



Camp Lee Va
May 31, 1918

Dear Papa,

I am sending you the furlough blanks, you are to fill out Section I. You had better ask the Sheriff about how to date that part of it. I have heard it talked up here that no furlough would extend over Aug. 15. That would make it about 60 days.

I want you all to answer and fill in the questions that I left out in Section II. They are the - 7 - 11 - & - 13 -

Then take the affidavit before some Notary, sign it and then take it to the Local Board.

When you send it back I am to take it to the Captain.

I don't know as it will amount

I heard from Guineo today also got names & dates letters
I will try to write to all the others as soon as I get settled. P.S.

to any thing but the Sargent told me to try it any way. Don't forget to fill in the blanks that I left out.

I am getting on all right so far I was sick yesterday from the first vaccination but am feeling fine today. I haven't had the headache but once since I got here, that was yesterday morning when I got up. I didn't sleep good the night before, but it didn't last long.

The Sargent said that this was an extra good Co. of men that I am with. They are all nice to each other no matter where they came from. There are some rough talking ones like you find every where.

We certainly are fed well here I don't wonder at food getting scarce if they feed them at all the camps like they do here. But if they choose to give it to me I am sure going to eat it. I have a great appetite. You and John wouldn't like the hash and soups like we get, but I always liked it. Had ice cream & lemonade both last night. — Son — Paul.

Letter to Father
June 4, 1918



Mr. John Godwin
Isle of Wight
Va
J. William Clegg



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"WITH THE COLORS"



Camp Lee Va
June 4, 1918.

My dear Papa,

I received your letter a few minutes ago and certainly was glad to get a letter from you. A few years ago I wouldn't have believed that I would ever live far enough away for you to have to write to me, for I then made up my mind that I would stay with you always, but we never know what's going to happen.

I sent you the furlough blanks several days ago, some of the other boys sent them and some didn't, Barlow, Hall, Stallings, Horne and several

TO THE WRITER: SAVE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER

TO THE FOLKS AT HOME: SAVE FOOD; BUY LIBERTY BONDS AND WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

others filled them and sent them back. I asked the Sergeant about it and he said we might try but he didn't think we would get off because it would be as the Captain said, and that he had granted them to so many before this he didn't think we would get it.

You can get it filled out and send it back and I will see the other boys before we go to the Capt. The boys from Isle of Wight were the only ones that had blanks, of the whole bunch that came in this draft. All of us boys are still in the same Co. and the Sergeant says he thinks we are likely to stay together through it all, that makes it better for us all most of this Co. are Virginians.

They are drilling us pretty hard this week. They took us off to a big field about

a mile away Sunday night
to hear a lecture and a cloud
came up, which broke up the
lecture we lined up and
ran a good part of the way
back to miss the rain, but
running on the cement street
furred me so that the muscles
of my legs have been sore ever
since. I got my new shoes
yesterday and they certainly
have relieved my feet. I got
9½ so that I would have them
plenty big.

They have Non Commissioned Officers
school in this building every
night any body can go now who
wants to. I think I will go
some and study up a little
on the work, it won't do me
any harm if I never get an office

4
because I see the quicker you are
to catch on to a drill the easier
it is for you. There are some
men here who seem to be half
dumplings, they can't even keep
step, the officers take them off
one side and even have to hold
on to them and drill while we
are resting.

I guess Louise is home now I wish
I could be there to see you all.
We will still be under a quarantine
until next Sunday, after that
we may get a pass to come home
some Saturdays evenings.

How are you all getting on
with the crop? Did you plant
any more peanuts. I know
that piece of corn back of the
house is pretty now.

You can fix the paper and send it
back and I will see Ray and the
other boys and do whatever they do.
Don't work too hard and make
yourself sick.

Love to all

Paul

Letter to Father
June 27, 1918

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES

P. Godwin

CO 17 Co 5 Battalion **REG**

CAMP *Infantry Replacement Camp*
Camp Lee Va



Mr. John Godwin

Isle of Wight
Va

Y. W. V. Wilson



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP

June 27 1918

Dear Papa.

I am going to try to write you a few lines to night, although I don't have much time to think about any thing but drilling. The Lieutenant says that we can't drill and be thinking about something else, and it certainly is the truth, for you would make a mistake every time.

I am getting on very well with my work, haven't had any extra drilling to do yet. When I first got my rifle I began handling it so well that the Lieutenant asked me if I hadn't had military training before.

How are you all getting on

with the crops? John and Davis Lee says that you havn't much grass. I hope you can get the peanuts tended without much trouble. I guess all the corn is laid by, I would like to see it I know it is pretty.

Well I had the pleasure of signing the "Pay Roll" Monday but I don't know now when I will get my money. You never know one minute what you are going to do the next here

I put in my application ^{today} for a pass next Saturday I don't know if I will get it or not, but I'm coming home if I possibly can.

If I can't get a pass to come home I want you and Mama to come up to see me one Sunday real soon. Get someone to bring you in a machine and then you can start sooner and have longer to stay. I certainly do want to see you all. From what I have heard we wont be here much longer. They say we have to be



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP

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ready to go across by the middle of
July. I don't know whether that
is right or not, for the officers
are not allowed to tell exactly
when any one will leave

Well I must close now.

With love to all
Paul.

Letter to Mother

July 2, 1918



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP

Camp Lee Va



July 2, 1915

Dear Mama,

I was certainly disappointed Saturday when I heard the Captain say that no week end passes would be issued, that everyone had to be there Sunday morning to answer the muster roll so that all our names could be sent to Washington in order to get our pay. They had me on detail Sat. pitching tents, and when we finished the Lieut. said that all who had been working on the tents could get a pass to Petersburg. So Shepard Adams and I went over together we went down to the train and saw his mother, she expected him to go home with her. We went in and got us something good to eat, stayed around there a while and then went back to camp.

2

Sunday morning they finished calling the roll about half past eight and then they gave passes to ^{who wanted one} any one. I could have come home but I wouldn't have had hardly an hour to stay after getting a way from the train. I thought I would wait until next Sat so that I could stay all night. I then decided that I would go to Richmond and spend the day, as I hadn't been out of camp but once, so I went and got my pass and started out. I didn't have any trouble finding Uncle Philips, got there about twelve o'clock, and I surely surprised them. When I got there they were all at Mr Johnsons church except Aunt Julia, they came back one at the time and all were shocked when they saw me. Isabel jumped up and clapped her hands as usual. After we got dinner Aunt Susie and I went around to Mr Johnsons and stayed a few minutes and



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP

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then went back and stayed until about six o'clock. Aunt Susie and Isabel went back over to Manchester ^{with me} where I got on the Peterburg car. I certainly did enjoy the day it was such a relief and change to what I have every day. I got back in camp about nine. Aunt Susie was about half way in the notion to come over here with Mr Johnson and family the next day, but after she saw me she decided not to go as she would have to go all the way back by herself. She said she was satisfied that I was getting on alright, without coming over here to see. Said that I looked better than I had for a long time. (Well I have gained six pounds in the last two weeks.)

Last night after supper I had just started to write a letter as the clerk came in and said that he wanted me to go on guard duty. I hated to hear that as I had been up late Sat and Sunday nights and knew that meant a very little sleep for that night.

I went on with him and they made me corporal of guard for that night, so I didn't have to walk up and down the streets watching. I had to line the guards up and march them out to the different posts and then march the old ones back, then I sat by the door and listened with my rifle and bayonet by my side, in case the guards should have trouble with anyone I had to run out and arrest and bring them in to the guard house, but everything was quiet, had no trouble at all.

The guards generally have a half day off after being on duty, but this morning all of us had to



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP

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go on the rifle range for the first time so I couldn't get my rest. In the first ten shots I made five perfect ones ^{and} ~~and~~ the others were very good. The rifle evermore kicked me my shoulder got so sore I could hardly touch the rifle to it before I stopped shooting. When we stopped and ate dinner I stretched out on the ground and took a good nap, just about twenty steps from the firing line while hundreds of rifles of other Co's were roaring. You can imagine how sleepy I was. I never thought I could go to sleep in such a fuss. I must close now. Is Papa well? I hope you all are well.

Love to all

Paul.

P.S. I am sending you a

picture although it isn't
good they are ^{all} scratched and
specked and everything else
wrong with them.

P. G.

Letter to Father
July 15, 1918

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



CO

REG

CAMP

Mr John Godwin

Isle of Wight
Va

C/o W. V. Wilson }



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP

Camp Lee Va

July 15 1918

Dear Papa,

We are still at Camp Lee expecting to leave any time, I guess we will get ready by tomorrow night although I haven't heard whether the orders have come in or not.

We reorganized the Co again today, they say we stand now just like we will when we get over. There are three of us together now that started out together when we got here. I was glad to get back with them for they seem almost like home folks now. One of them is the big fellow that was standing

2- there close to me yesterday
and that told you he came
from Suffolk. My little corporal
that I showed you has been
changed to another squad.
A new Captain has also been
assigned to the Company to
go across with us.

I certainly was glad you all
came yesterday, you got here
so late I was afraid you
were not coming. I was
sitting in there on my cot
trying to clean my rifle
but wasn't doing much
to it because I had my
mind on seeing you all, I
looked first out of one
window and then the other
and I happened to see you
just as some one called me.

We didn't have much time to
be together but under the present
circumstances it was about
the best we could do. I know
you got tired of seeing us pack
up and unpack our equipments.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP.....

..... 191

I hope you all got home
early and were feeling
well when you got there.

I guess you all are getting
on very well with the crop.

I would like very much
to be there to eat some
Watermelon for I don't think
I will get much until
they get real cheap.

Well I will have to close
this now.

I send my very best love, and
will say good bye to each of
the family until I land
some where.

Don't write any more until
you hear from me.

Your Son
Paul.

Letter to Father
August 5, 1918

Priv. Paul Godwin
5 Prov Co. I. R. D. (White)
American C. F.
Via New York

AMERICAN

Y.M.C.A.



SOLDIER'S

MAIL



Mr. John Godwin
Smithfield
Virginia, U.S.A.



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Aug 5 1918

O.K.
W.H.C.

Dear Papa,

I am writing
you a few lines this morning
to say that I am still getting
on alright.

I have traveled quite a bit
since I last saw you all,
and have actually seen things
that otherwise my imagination
would have never presented.

I would like very much to
see you all but I know
that's impossible now, so I
have given up every thing
strictly to duty, and am
looking forward to a happy
future when its all over

and when I can come back home again.

Tell Louise to take a picture of the whole family and send me, I am real anxious for it.

Remember me to all of my friends around there and give my address to any one who cares to write to me.

Now I want to say this to all of you, don't wait for me to write every time before you write again, I will be glad to get a letter just as often as any of you will write.

I guess this is the week for the Meeting at Uzzles wish I could be there to attend.

I hope all of you are well and getting on alright.

I guess I will close now for this time, I may write more next time.

You all write to me and tell me all the news.

My best love to each of the family.

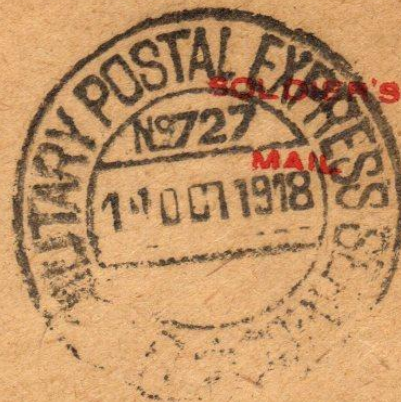
Your son
Paul

Priv. Paul Godwin
5 Prov. Co. 1 R. L (White)
American C. F.
Via New York

Letter to Father
October 9, 1918

Pvt. Paul Godwin
U.S. Army.

AMERICAN



Oct 9

Mr. John Godwin
Smithfield
Virginia.

2nd Lt. S.C. U.S.A.

U.S.A.





ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Oct. 9 1918

Dear Papa,

I will write
you a few words tonight
to let you know that
I am getting on alright.
I have had a bad cold
for the last few days
but am getting better
now.

The weather is so peculiar
over here that I don't
wonder at any one catch-
ing cold. In the morning
there is frost and ice all
around and I almost
freeze, then in the middle
of the day the sun shines

down so hot that I can't keep my coat on.

I will finish my course in school this week, then I will be moved on some where else, I don't know where. I hate to leave here for this is the easiest place I have struck since I've been in the army.

I have met some mighty good friends here also. There ~~is~~ is one fellow in my tent from one of the western states, and it's very interesting to me to hear him tell of life on the Ranch in the west. I told him I was coming to see him when we got back.

I guess you enjoy reading the good news from the front that we are getting now. I know I do.

I got a letter from Louise last Sunday, and was glad to know you all were well. I hope you are now. Hurry and write to me and tell me how the peanut crop is. I know those pen boys are pretty now. I must close now.

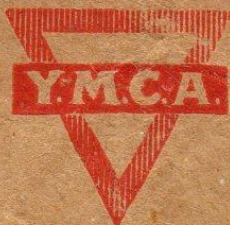
Very best love from
Your son - Paul.

Post. Paul Godwin
Base Signal School
1st Depot Division
American C. F.
France via New York.

Letter to Father
October 25, 1918

Det. Paul Godwin

AMERICAN



U.S. Army Inf

Kilders Mail



OCT 25

Mr John Godwin
Smithfield
Virginia
U. S. A.



Inf. U. S. R.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

NAME _____

AMERICAN RED CROSS



October 25 1918

Dear Papa.

I received your letter some time ago but
haven't had time to write before now I have just
finished moving. I walked about twelve miles
yesterday with my pack and you can imagine how
I felt when I got here. I graduated at the Signal
School two weeks ago, and I am going up now as
a Telegraph operator. I hope I will be able to do something
to help bring this war to a close. Sometime I think its
almost over and again I loose hopes and think we
have a lot to do now. I am getting up near enough to hear
the big guns now.

I hope you all are getting on alright, and are well.
When I left school I weighed 207 pounds. Can you
imagine seeing me a big man like that?
I won't have time to write any more this time
as I want to get this off in today's mail.

Tell sister I am sending my coupon for a Christmas
package, but I wouldn't advise her to send a sweater
for it will be mid winter by the time it gets here. I will
have it to her to decide though. Any little thing from
home will be appreciated.
I must close now. I send my very best love to you
and the rest of the family.

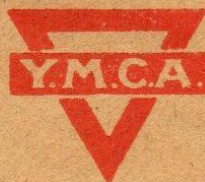
Your son,

Paul.

Letter to Mother
November 16, 1918

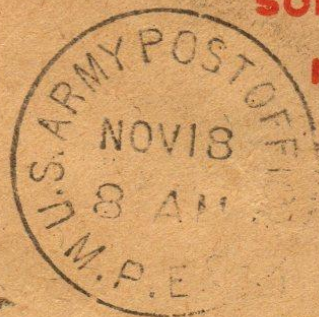
Pvt. Paul Godwin
U. S. Army.

AMERICAN



SOLDIERS

MAIL



1918

Mrs John Godwin
Smithfield
Virginia

U. S. A.

Censored by

Eqm. Mgr.
1st Lt. U. S. A.

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

November 16 1918

Dear Mama,

I will write you
a few lines this afternoon
to let you know that I am
still getting on nicely although
I am tired of France.
I guess you were delighted at
hearing the good news of late
as well as every one else.
I think the concluding of the
armistice will mean imme-
diate peace.

I don't guess I will be home
to eat Christmas dinner but
I do hope I will be somewhere
in the states. I am disgusted
with lining up for every
meal and living in barns
tents and holes in the ground.

I just got back from my first trip to the front a few days ago. I know I didn't go through half of what some of the boys did, but I saw enough to convince me that there are horrors connected with every battle. I didn't get wounded or any thing like that but I did fall in a shell hole up there one night and hurt my weak shoulder and had to call someone to help me out. I tell you life on the front is great. The night before we started to the front I went over to look for Charlie Darden. I found him Shady and David Garner and also saw Goodrich the next day. I was some glad to see them for they were the only home folks I have seen since July 31. I walked up to Charlie's

tent and called him. he recognized my voice at once but he was some surprised said he had heard I was over here but had no idea I was any where near him.

Well I hope I will see you before very much longer. We are already dreaming of parading in Richmond in the near future. Hope you all are well.

I must close now.

Your son

Paul.

Pvt. Paul Godwin

Headquarters Co. 317 Inf.
American C. F.