

# George T. Angell (1893-1971)

## World War I Letters, 1918

Vermont Historical Society

MSA 681:6

*Transcriptions by*

Susan G. Elliott

*February 2019*

The goal in the transcription is to make the letters as accessible as possible to today's readers.

- A blank line (\_\_\_\_\_) designates an undecipherable word to this editor.
- The use of the sic designation has been omitted.
- Misspellings have been corrected, but only when to do so would make little or no difference in understanding. For example, in the undated first letter of part 5, George enjoys a “coco-cola.” To correct this would take away access to his voice, his pronunciation.
- Punctuation and grammar have been edited as needed.
- Typos such as inadvertent repetition have been edited. For example, on October 21, 1918, he wrote “Why didn’t you **tell me tell me** what time you leave Hardwick...”

## **Introduction**

This small collection contains the letters that Corporal George T. Angell (1893-1971) of Hardwick, Vermont, sent home from Camp Devens near Ayer, Massachusetts, in 1918. Eleanor Angell of Burlington, Vermont, a relative of the author, gave the letters to the Vermont Historical Society in 2013. They are housed in one archival file folder (MSA 681:6).

## **Biographical Notes**

George Timothy Angell, son of Timothy Edward and Rose Trow Angell, was born on 18 February 1893 at Hardwick, Vermont, and died on 1 January 1971 in Waterbury, Vermont. No corroborating vital record could be found in any internet database concerning his death. He married Mary Hester Weinle (again, no vital records are available), who was born in December of 1896. She outlived George and remarried after his death in 1971; she died in 1982.

In her book *Three Early Vermont Settlers: Amos Morse, George Trow, Ephraim Ainsworth*, Eleanor Angell describes an incident that almost cost 3-year old George his life and took the life of his cousin, Ruth Trow. The driver of a fast moving wagon struck the children as they walked with their mothers on the streets of Hardwick. George suffered only superficial injuries but Ruth eventually died of her injuries. Later, George attended the Goddard Seminary in Barre, Vermont, and the Dean Academy in Massachusetts.

George entered the army through induction on 3 September 1918, in Rutland, Vermont, at age 25 1/2 years old. His first and only assignment took him to the 151st Depot Brigade, Camp Devens, Massachusetts, where he remained throughout his term of service. He received a promotion to corporal on 11 November 1918, and a discharge on 5 December 1918. During his time in the service, the Spanish influenza struck the United States. Angell came down with the disease while at Camp Devens and spent many days in the hospital. He eventually recovered and resumed his training. Because the war was winding down and his sickness had put him behind in his training, George did not serve overseas.

## **Scope and Content**

The collection features 36 letters written in 1918 by George T. Angell of Hardwick, Vermont, while he trained to become a soldier ready for deployment to Europe at the end of

the First World War. The letters provide a one way look into his life while at Camp Devens; no return letters from his family or friends have been preserved. Because George entered the service at the end of the war, his career lasted only a few months, September through December. While at Camp Devens, he received a promotion to corporal and an invitation to attend non-commissioned officer's school. No details of the school can be found in the letters, although there is a hint that Angell would eventually become a regular officer. As the war ended, Angell stopped discussing his plans; the last letter carries a date about two weeks from his discharge.

The letters contain details of camp life and a first-hand look at the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. George came down with the flu, something he blamed on the frequent inoculations he received as part of the preparation for overseas duty. Angell did not always tell his mother the whole story while he lay in the hospital, but he did give more specific details to his father. After leaving the hospital and returning to light duty, George added some depth to his descriptions. For example, Angell stated he had been put in a ward designed for 34 patients, the population there swelled to 112 affecting the care that the patients received as well as the hastening of the spread of the disease.

In some of his letters, George described the inoculation program. In the modern time, most injections are sized by the cubic centimeter; Angell describes some of the shots by the millions of germs contained in each one.

The letters also set the backdrop for a lonely soldier worried about the health of his parents and sibling back in Vermont. He warned them constantly about becoming sick, he even went as far as recommending that they wear a cloth over their nose and mouth when they unpacked the clothes he sent home and even when reading the letters he wrote while sick. Angell constantly asked his parents to visit him in Ayer, Massachusetts, send him food and articles of clothing, and to send money when they wrote to them.

### **Related Collections**

The Vermont Historical Society Library's collection includes *Three Early Vermont Settlers: Amos Morse, George Trow, Ephraim Ainsworth*, by Eleanor Angell, 2000, Burlington, VT (call number 929.2 M835aa), and a manuscript collection of Trow family papers (MSA 243), also donated by Eleanor Angell.

Send out any writing  
material that is in a box in my trunk

South Woodbury  
May 14, 1918

Dear folks:

Please send out in a suit-case by the stage the following articles: Best suit, shirt, cuff-links, collar buttons, belt, any best tie, hankerchief [sic], stockings. I have my collars out here. I need some work stockings real bad, and my hankerchiefs are all dirty. Send out the flashlight I left on the shelf in the pantry, my low shoes too. We will go to the creamery Saturday morning and will get \_\_\_\_\_ others, as I want to go to church some time along and would like my suit. Don't forget any thing as it won't do me much good if you do. Send some coat and pant hangers, too.

Every thing is about the same here. Rather lonesome, am working hard as it is planting time now. If Esther has got home, I want to see her dear face the worst way but it's too hard to walk out, and try and work. If she is home have her come out on the stage for a day or two. Aren't you coming camping? Have you seen if \_\_\_\_\_ Leo Johnson almost is \_\_\_\_\_? Or shall I write him? Please do some thing as I get awful lonesome when it come night and think some times I will start for home tired or not tired.

Be sure and send the things by Saturday morning \_\_\_\_\_. When the rush & planting is over I won't be so tired.

As ever George

[Written in margin: Be sure and send the things by Saturday morning sure when the rush of planting is over I won't be so twice. As ever, George.]

4/27/18

Wednesday

Dear Dad,

After I got my notice you sent, I went to Rutland to find out what I could and Dr. Hamilton gave me another examination and said that I wasn't fit for military service, but said they had orders not to throw anyone out for heart trouble, etc. My papers went to the District Board at Montpelier and they sent them back General Service as you know. I was recommended by the Advisory Board for limited Service as a carpenter. \_\_\_\_\_ all branches of the Army are closed now, and my only choice the navy but Dr. Hamilton said (by the way he is the head of the Local Board at Rutland) that he thought they would send me back after I got to camp. Probably they would call again in draft 3 week. That will mean some time in April. I was talking with Mr. Hooper. He is on the Exemption Board at St. Johnsbury, and he told me my paper should not have gone to the District Board, that they hadn't sent any of theirs there in regards to Physical Fitness, that the Advisory Board should have been the last discussion. I should think that it was a mixed up mess all around, one board doing one thing and another a different way.

Do you think I had better try and get into the navy? Or wait for the draft? Of course, I don't like the water, and mother doesn't either, but some people think it is better than the army, for several reasons, one is that they don't believe the navy will see any real service in this war. I mean any real fighting, and one is always sure of a bed and plenty of eats on a boat, and it's better for the fact so many are in the army that things are mixed up more or less, while in the navy on a boat there isn't so much rush and jam.

I wish I had some one to give me some sound advice on what to do, and how to start. I am up \_\_\_\_\_ for I know so little about either the army or navy, but I have \_\_\_\_\_ some about different things but they don't seem to care only for themselves, and don't bother with your care at all.

I wish I knew what to do.

I should think the \_\_\_\_\_ people were \_\_\_\_\_ you funny looking a \_\_\_\_\_ so forth.

What do they mean but such options. How's the old \_\_\_\_\_ ? I hope he has to shoulder a gun. He will change in mood a little I think or some one will put him to sleep.

There is still two or three feet of snow here, but on the hills you can begin to see bare ground a little.

I would have written in ink, but both the ink and pen are on the \_\_\_\_\_ .

- From your loving Son,

- George

[Top Panel on first page of letter: Dad, if you go to Waterbury, get any papers I have got some but not all of them.]

[Side Panel on last page: I wrote you some time ago about the ?, but you didn't say anything about it in your letter. What would be best to do on the edges where the tip is? I have some two \_\_\_\_\_ all ready to put on.]

South Woodbury, Vt.

Sunday Night 10:30

Dear folks:

It has been pretty lonesome today. I hope to have seen you but I suppose the rain must have stopped you from coming.

Aunt Etta came up this evening and I went back home with her. It was awful dark coming back, had to go by the opening between the trees to tell where I was.

Now please try and come out when you can for it's hard for me to leave here except Sundays. I may be called to go to Camp Devens the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. You are \_\_\_\_\_ paid \_\_\_\_\_ nearly gone, and Provost Marshall Graider has ordered to take the farmers next, but take the ones that can be spared the best. If I don't have to go this month, I surely will next. I \_\_\_\_\_ to go when they say the word, so I won't lose any sleep over it. If my wish had been granted I would have been in France long ago. When Esther comes here, have her come out if you can't, for I want to see her something awful, and I just have got to some way, haven't seen her much in the last four years, and guess my conscience troubles me a little that I did do more to help her, and that makes me feel all the worse.

Come out to stay a few days if you possibly can and bring Snip if he can ride. Don't let him follow an automobile. He is too old and fat.

As Ever

Your loving Son and Brother

George

NOTES ON ENVELOPE:

Dear Folks at home:

Arrived here about 7:00 o'clock tonight, there is much to say just now as I am only arrived. Saw some Rutland fellows that have been here since June. I am in barracks, and comfortably situated for the night but not a feather bed. Will have to stay in the barracks for two weeks. I guess I'll have a chance to write lots.

As ever

George (?)

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON ENVELOPE:

Send some maple sugar cakes a few, six or seven cakes at a time. I won't be able to buy for two weeks. Everything is fine, and \_\_\_\_\_ , great life. Have Esther write and tell me about the wedding, what day is it set for, and think I can come up a weekend anyway. Just going to dinner.

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion

151<sup>st</sup> Depot Brigade

Camp. Devens

Mass.

My address:

35<sup>th</sup> Co 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion

151 St. Depot Brigade

Camp Devens, Mass.



35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 St. Depot Brigade  
Camp Devens, Mass

Dear Sister,

Your letter just received, and was mighty glad to hear from you. I have been real busy since I arrived. Yesterday we were vaccinated for typhoid and small pox. The typhoid was on the right arm, and you can believe me it's so sore I can hardly raise it to my head. I have caught a little cold some where and my bones ache. It seems to have settled all over me. The left arm is fine. Wouldn't ever know I was vaccinated in that arm. We all had examinations yesterday. I passed O.K.. Three or four of the boys of the twenty go home Monday. I guess I am all right physically, at least they think so here. They didn't even examine my nose. I spoke about it, and they said I didn't shoot a gun with my nose. I took out \$10,000 insurance yesterday in mother's name. It will cost about \$7.00 a month. Most everyone takes on the full amount.

Saw Dr. Lamerai at the Base Hospital yesterday, and just passed the time of day. He was doing some clerical work there, and I went directly by him.

I have to stay in the barracks here for two weeks, we are vaccinated again next Saturday and another later on three \_\_\_\_\_. Two of the fellows fainted away yesterday, one landed on his head. He was some sick, but felt better in a few minutes. It didn't affect me very much until last night and then my arm ached some and didn't sleep very well. I like army life very much but imagine the discipline will be the hardest for me. I was so used to doing about as I pleased. At inspection this morning the Captain and Lieutenant, I guess that is the way to spell it, came up to me and asked me if I had ever had military training before. I said no and they asked my name. I guess they like the looks, probably they will \_\_\_\_\_ me overseas in six weeks. They say it's best for a fellow to do the \_\_\_\_\_ but he knows how, and he gets along a great deal better, and is more apt to get passes and etc. They aren't giving only 36 hour passes very much but if I do well perhaps they may let me off for 72 hours. I can come up Saturday and leave there Tuesday morning. I will try my hardest but you see the train connections are so poor from St. Johnsbury over that it's going to be hard to come home very often. I could come home every weekend if it wasn't so far. Ayer is almost twenty minutes ride from here. It's a

town I guess. I came through here. There is some carpenter work here. Wish Dad and Mother could come down here and live after you go. I could see them every night nearly.

I took an examination in automobile driving and repairing. It was \_\_\_\_\_. I answered them all but four of twenty. It was some hard too but I tried my darndest to answer right. Hope I get a job driving a truck. It will be better than the infantry which I am in now but I may not get it until it is too late, anyway I hope so. I think I could make good.

We have to go to bed at 10 o'clock and arise at five thirty. It is dark then and have to be lined up outside barracks in ten minutes for reveille. That's just the same as roll call.

I wished I had the Herald. News looks so good when you don't know a soul. I would like one of those pillows very much for I haven't had any since I have been here. The blanket came in handy last night when I was cold and the \_\_\_\_\_ is very handy and nice. There are quite a few things I will buy when I get out of quarantine. Send food that you can any time for I get dreadful hungry. We get pretty good food here. Will need my winter under clothing before long. I can't seem to keep warm. There are nice \_\_\_\_\_ here. Wish I had the \_\_\_\_\_ could come home up in \_\_\_\_\_ weekend. We have from Saturday noon until Monday morning to ourselves. I did quite a lot of drilling Thursday and Friday. I don't like it very well, but try and keep awake \_\_\_\_\_ the best I can. There is between 45 out of 75 \_\_\_\_\_ me here in the Camp some \_\_\_\_\_. Only I have seen them as yet. I bet that I'll be a corporal, or a sergeant in six weeks if I behave myself.

Wished you folks were nearer me. Would see you more often. Come down any time you can. Get a jitney from Ayer to the 35 Company, 9th Training Battalion, 151 St. Depot Brigade.

As ever your loving brother George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Trng. Bn.’  
151 St. Depot Brigade  
Fort Devens, Mass.

My dear Sister,

Just received the box and thank you very much for it’s just fine. I wish you would make some home cookies or \_\_\_\_\_ send my small pocket dictionary. I have forgot how to spell anything I \_\_\_\_\_ need and that \_\_\_\_\_ much it is in that box of stationary I had. Of course if it’s a whole lot of bother don’t do it but if you are cooking, cook something, sandwiches or cookies or doughnuts, etc. Some good bread and butter would be fine. The butter is very poor here if one is lucky enough to get one \_\_\_\_\_. Some cold roast sandwiches would be fine but don’t buy half a pig in order to send them.

I have been drilling about all day and you can believe me, I am tired. It is hard work. They are \_\_\_\_\_ us faster than they have some of the bunches before us. Some of us will probably go over with the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ in about four weeks.

There is a store right over on the road and I can get candy and sweets there if I have the price, also ice cream but your candy tasted so good, seems as though it tastes better than it does here.

I am pretty lame tonight but will take a bath and may feel better tomorrow. It was a fine day here. I bet there is a cold flare in the wintertime.

The blanket came in handy. Some of the fellows envy me. There are cold nights but I haven’t been bothered much. It’s real warm.

There is no one that wants the war to stop more than the boys here. They are sick of it. I tell you we have it hard, compared with a civilian, he can go where he pleases, and his own boss, but is military discipline we get, and believe me, we get it drilled in the dust and hot sun all day. Its no cinch you can bet. The training isn’t so bad for a fellow, but sometime we’ll \_\_\_\_\_ have to do our hitch in hell and that will be a different story, when the bullets are flying.

As far as me, I don’t worry for if I did I would go crazy. I only forget it and \_\_\_\_\_ and smile, but sometimes it’s hard. I really like the army myself, the training and drilling, etc. Some folks would die of a broken heart when some of the Non. Com. and Officers ball him

out, but they certainly have no patience, and are even worse than that boss you were under in Bristol. I am planning to be there the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Is that right?

-----  
Your loving brother

George

[Penciled in: 'Before Base Hospital]

[Letterhead]

ARMY AND NAVY

[GRAPHIC: American Flag] YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION [Graphic: YMCA logo]

"WITH THE COLORS"

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Trng Brig.

151 St. Depot Brigade

Dear Mother,

Received the four dollars and package, and everything. I was taken sick last Friday with this new sickness that's having a rage everywhere. There are 3,000 of the soldiers sick here, twelve have died but I am over the fever and still have a little cold in my head and lungs, cough quite a bit. I have been \_\_\_\_\_ around since Monday trying to fight it for I wanted to come home so bad. The doctor told me to go to bed for if I got \_\_\_\_\_ I might have pneumonia. Please send something for a cough. Send some cough drops, and a plaster. I \_\_\_\_\_ the half of one on I had in my grip.

Believe me, it's no joke to be sick in the army, and if one is really sick I don't see how they ever get well. I am not sick enough to be sent to the Base Hospital, and they have only of the 36<sup>th</sup> Company the temporary hospital and those that have a temperature of 100 or more are sent to the Base Hospital, as it is full. \_\_\_\_\_ thirty nine left here last night

Mrs. Doctor Darling and Doctor are here in \_\_\_\_\_ visiting Summer. He is down stairs from me now. They made the trip in two days. They are coming home the last of the week. I told them I might come but the \_\_\_\_\_ nothing.

I had to cry when the Doctor said for me to go to bed but I guess I had a slight fever, and perhaps it best for me.

Better send my stuff I wanted the first of week if I don't appear on the scene.

I wanted to come so and had planned on it. This is hell to be sick in the army.

Be sure and send some cough medicine, and anything that is good for a cold. The medicine they give me I won't ever get well. I have been to all my meals. Don't worry, they wouldn't let you see me if you should come. We are quarantined.

From your loving son,

George

Lots of love to all

[Imprint: “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.]

## Part 2

Love to all, \_\_\_\_\_ send my letters to Dad. If he isn't there he will want to hear, and I have time to write \_\_\_\_\_ letters. Tell Sis to write lots.

[Letterhead]

ARMY AND NAVY

[GRAPHIC: American Flag] YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION [Graphic: YMCA logo]

“WITH THE COLORS”

Sept. 9, 1918

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Trng

151 St. Depot Brigade

Camp Devens, Mass.

Dear Mother:

Received the paper and candy and everything was fine and enjoyed it very much. Also the letters.

I went down to headquarters today and took an examination on truck driving. I did the best I could. It's some different than driving our cars. The truck weighs twelve tons or at least they call it a twelve ton truck. They made me do every thing, drive through some stakes that we set up like the letter S and back through some stakes like the letter U, and turn around on a mark of 13 out of a possible 17 so guess I passed, at least I hope so. I did the very best with a new car and better than lots of them. This makes three examinations I have taken on driving. I may get a truck to drive and I may not. I can only hope for the best.

I was on guard duty for two hours this morning from 6 to 8 and from 12 to 2 and then went down after that and took the examinations.

I like to talk encouraging but this war isn't over yet and people don't want to think so for they will get awfully\_\_\_\_\_. It's a long way to Berlin and we have only started. There are some pretty home sick boys here.

I won't get paid until the third of next month and will have to borrow some money for little things I have got to have. I had to buy a pair of leggings \$1.75 and a couple of buttons, .25, and haven't much left. Send a couple of dollars if you can, and then when I come home

you will have to send me some more to come with. I am planning on being through the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month, is that right? If not, let me know right away so I can make different arrangements, and also let me know if that is the right date.

Send my shoe brush when you get a chance, and any food you can spare that you cook yourself. It tastes so good when one gets so hungry.

When I get out of quarantine I shall mail \_\_\_\_\_ my trouser and what I do not need, but will have to have my shoe brush.

By the way, Summer Darling and Charlie Novak of Rutland have been sent here on limited \_\_\_\_\_ and are in the next barracks. I see them real often and talked with them if they will probably be assigned to some Hospital Unit, it seems funny to see Summer out around the barracks picking up cigarette stubs and matches and paper, etc. I guess it will \_\_\_\_\_ him. He will learn to wait on himself here. Have seen quite a lot of fellows I know here. It seems so good to see them when you don't know a soul. I don't know a fellow in this in this barrack.

I would like very much the things I asked for in the other letter.

I caught cold fast two weeks ago Sunday night \_\_\_\_\_ and it settled all over me felt pretty firm for a while, but I am much better now, and have taken physic and nearly all over it now.

Two of the boys were sent back to Rutland today rejected.

There is carpenter work in Ayer I hear. Dad had better come down after the 22<sup>nd</sup> and work here and you can come and live here and I can see you most any night. I may not be here very long, perhaps 6 or 7 weeks. They are going to stop the 12 \_\_\_\_\_ soon and I may be pushed right ahead. I am in the infantry now, but I suppose every one is in for a while until he learns to handle himself and a gun for his own benefit.

I will write often and you do the same, for I love to hear from you.

Hope you can read this for I am pretty tired.

As Ever,

Your loving son,

George



Received the box tonight, and a letter from Sister and one from Lester and one from  
\_\_\_\_\_. Have received three from her. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ good to get letters. It's almost all the amusement one gets is the mail.

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 St. Depot Brigade  
Camp Devens, Mass.

[Penciled in: Sept. 11, 1918]

Dear Mother:

Received your letter, and when mail is called out every noon, and every night, how good it makes me feel to get a letter. Try and write often and tell Dad to write. I want to hear from him too.

I was examined very thoroughly but there are so many. Twelve hundred went through the Base Hospital the same day I did and of course they don't take much time on one person but it was a fair examination.

We have to drill about seven hours a day and it is terrible to stand at attention for five or ten minutes and walk about fifteen miles each day. It's pretty hard work. One fellow fell down when we were running this morning and they took him to the Hospital. He has acute appendicitis. He was husky too. They are rushing us fast. The officers want to make a record I guess by what I hear and so they drill us all the time. I get awful sick of "Right Face, Left Face, Right About Face, Left Flank, Right Flank, Column Right, Column Left, Right Dress and Left Dress and Attention, Parade Rest, Salute, Mark Time and a hundred others, and it makes me sick to hear this now.

You had ought to hear the boys here talk. I guess if they could vote they would all leave the Camp. About half of them are married and got families and guess I am lucky to have stayed out as long as I have.

Saw Louis Mulligan. He was up the other night. He is in the 27<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion. He has been here three months and has drilled with a rifle all the time. He is vey sick of it. Remember he went to the Mechanic School at Burlington but never seems to be carrying a rifle.

Love to all, Tell Dad to write.

[NOTE AT TOP OF PAGE: Every thing in the box was in the pie was whole.

Sept. 11, 1910 Thursday 4:30 pm.]

I am too tired to \_\_\_\_\_ letter tonight, so will answer it tomorrow.

If I can get enough to eat guess I can stand it, but if couldn't buy it, guess I would starve. I have to spend 30 or 40 cents a day on chocolate bars to keep half full and then I am hungry. I get all I can at the mess hall but believe me some home cooking would be paradise to me.

I get vaccinated tomorrow again, and maybe laid up so I won't be able to write much as it is the right arm they put it in.

I hear some of the Limited Service men passed the examination and were put in General Service since coming here. They take anyone that can walk. Wouldn't have been much better off I guess if I had been in it, although the \_\_\_\_\_ for me and Dad was in the shipyards.

Has Dad jacked the car up and taken car apart?

How much \_\_\_\_\_ Johnson as for the use of \_\_\_\_\_ .

Send some sandwiches of some kind. We eat out of aluminum dishes and I don't like it. Nothing tastes good out of them.

Don't send the pillow until I come up the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I have enough bedding. They gave me, three \_\_\_\_\_ the one I brought but I sleep on one.

It is nearly time for retreat and I have to show every day. Everyone does \_\_\_\_\_. I must close and shave and wash up. Just back from the drill field.

I wish you could send some money. I won't get paid until September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Send \$2 in a letter for you and send enough to come home or before the 22<sup>nd</sup> by Wednesday and that I will send home my pay because I might have it stole from me here, and I guess I ought you some now.

I have \$10,000 insurance. If I should get killed you would get \$57 a month for 20 years.

As Ever

Your loving son

George

Tell Dad to write. How's Snipp? The things mother cooked were fine.

Sunday Night

Dear sister of mine:

Received your letter tonight and was glad to hear from you. I am feeling much better now and in another day will be my self again.

What do you know? Wayne and Mildred and \_\_\_\_\_ called on me this afternoon and was glad to \_\_\_\_\_ some of my folks, I mean relations , although we don't always agree on certain things.

Had a box of peach apples from Joseph Tibbetts tonight and a box of fudge. It was good, very. Send another apple pie. Some time it was great. We don't get pastry in the army nor sugar, and very little butter.

Send the telegram about Wednesday, and be sure and send me some money. I will be looking for it about Wednesday, not later than Thursday, anyway for I won't get it.

I hope I will be able to get off and feel quite sure I can but something bothers me. I haven't a very good uniform, as we get our winter uniforms next month, and they give the men any old suit and they aren't very good fits some of them, but mine isn't bad compared with some, but it doesn't look like a new one and would it pay to buy a summer suit when I will get a winter one in a month? What do you think?

I am glad if my thing is coming out all right. I know it would never worry sister. We have to take things as a matter of course in the army for a few hours. May bring forth a great change. We have some pretty good officers in this company I think. I guess they like the looks of me anyway. They haven't said anything to me. If I have to buy a new uniform, it will cost twelve or fifteen dollars will \_\_\_\_\_ pay. If so, send that extra and send all in money order by Thursday night anyway.

Be sure and send telegram as I told you and the wording.

Your loving brother,

George

September 16, 1918

Dear Dad,

I have been laying around all day. Haven't been feeling good and taking so much physic I could not drill. Probably tomorrow I will. There are lots of men sick here at present with the grip. It was the vaccination and inoculations that bother me most. Had a fever for a few days, but am \_\_\_\_\_ coming out of it, although I have a cold in my head and cough quite a bit last night. I had one of those \_\_\_\_\_ headaches I had at home once. Seemed as though my head would split, but I feel better all the time. If I didn't I should have you come. Quite a few fellows have died in the last twenty-four hours with pneumonia, but mine is most gone now, so don't worry about me.

I understand this is some thing that they are having all over the country and in every camp, especially in New England.

I will have to have some money to come home with, and I have only a little change now. It doesn't cost me very much to smoke but I can't seem to get enough to eat, perhaps by and by I will get filled up although the last five days I have eaten as much. The Base Hospital is full of patients, and some of the barracks are half full, and some are in tents, all sick. The Hospital alone holds 2,000. A fellow just got back from the Hospital and he said they did the best they could but there was such a rush that they couldn't give any thought and study to an individual case like in civilian life and you can bet if I thought I had to go I would let you know just as soon as possible but then I don't know as you could see me much, but would let you know anyway, but I won't have to go this time for I am much better, but still a little weak from the physic I guess.

If any of you should \_\_\_\_\_ to come, take a bus from the West gate or where ever you come in, and have him take you to the barrack, or to the 35<sup>th</sup> Company 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Depot Brigade for we are in the extreme end of the camp and it would be dreadful hard to find me, and you would have enough walking going back or find a lodging place, etc. \_\_\_\_\_ such and take a bus for you will make a mistake to walk it for this camp is ten miles square, and it's all mixed up, and that would be the best way unless you have lots of time.

Expect to be home Saturday if the whole camp isn't in quarantine. I don't think it will be. The 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44th Company have measles and will be in quarantine from four to six weeks at least. I hope none of the boys here have the measles. It will spoil coming home for me.

Send money for all that I know at this hour I should be home if the commander gives his consent and I guess he will for a wedding.

I am glad to be better for I was awful sick one night with the fever, it was the small pox vaccination that made me sick. I am over the biggest part of it. I have had the small pox vaccination, and 80,000,000 typhoid germs, and have only to take 20,000,000 more. That is what I understand. I got thirty million the first inoculation and fifty million the second, nearly a double dose, and believe me, you know it, but they say you will never have typhoid after you get the inoculations. I will be glad of that for I was subject to typhoid, and it surely did work on me.

Don't send brush and pillow until I come home, but don't forget the money.

As Ever,

Your loving son,

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 Street Depot Brigade  
Camp Devens, Mass.

Dear folks,

Well here I am and it's Saturday night. I hope you folks have been feeling better than I have. Thursday my smallpox vaccination began to work, and I have quite a cold and got my second typhoid inoculation yesterday morning and was some sick. I had an awful fever and was as sick for a while as I ever was. I had awful pain in my head, and now when I first get up I am dizzy and some weak, but will be all right in a day or two for I am much better and can eat now, but I am glad that so much is \_\_\_\_\_ and wish it all was. I am lots better so don't worry now, but you are kicked in the army no matter how well you try to do. They call you lazy, and if you try to keep going and can hardly move a muscle they \_\_\_\_\_ you because you can't stand at attention for five minutes at a time. Everyone says you're out of luck to be in the army and I guess they are right.

Of course, one has got to put up with it all, but when outsiders are here, George likes to tell them fine, but it's a damn lie but that is what everyone says and it's the only way as I understand.

I was talking with Summer Darling this noon. He \_\_\_\_\_ for General Service, and I guess he isn't some \_\_\_\_\_, although he tried to hide it. What in the world will he do? Now when his feet get cold, he will have to do the same work as I now only he is with the 36<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, 151<sup>st</sup> Depot Brigade.

Charles Novak has gone home to work on the Local Board there and then he may be called back again.

The pie tasted awful good and so did the sandwiches, and doughnuts. I got the money all right. You had better send me ten (\$10.00) to come home or I don't know what it will cost. Send five in one letter and five in another and I will get it alright. It \_\_\_\_\_ to get registered mail until I get back off quarantine.

Send one Tuesday and on Wednesday so I will be sure and get them before I start for home Friday. I expect but don't plan on it for I haven't asked yet.



I want Esther to send a telegram Wednesday telling me the wedding is Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 P.M. and that I am to be the best man. I don't know how the best man is asked but if you are the one putting it in. If not just say the wedding is to be the 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 2 P.M. Try and come but if you are the one who chooses the best man, say the wedding is Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 P.M. and you are to be best man. \_\_\_\_\_ a come if possible.

Miss Esther P. Angell.

They say one is more apt to get off if they send a telegram so they had better send on about Wednesday.

I am glad to be feeling better and I know in a day or two I shall be feeling so much in a day, and haven't got to do anything until next Monday. We always have a 48 hour rest after an inoculation.

It looks as if the boys were giving the Germans h--- on the Western front. The way they are going they will so be in Germany at least before winter.

Well, done for this time

As ever

Your loving son and brother

George

Sept. 19, 1918

Dear Sister and all,

I have been sent to the Base Hospital. Have a temperature of 102.4. Nothing sure. I have got to go. I am just heart broken. I will have to take all my inoculations over again and \_\_\_\_\_ it spoils every chance to come home. I have an awful cold in my head and lungs. Would like to have you come but we are under quarantine and no one can come in.

Received four letters with six dollars, Dad. Did Esther send the money or did you? I must close now and cover up.

Lots of love

George

P.S. Don't worry about me. They will take good care of me.

[Written on scrap paper]

I guess it best I did try and keep up any longer, as there are so many dying with it. The ward master said here that the general public didn't know what a serious epidemic it was. I think I am might lucky so far for I was only really sick for a couple of days.

You see I have had my mail since last Friday night, and I suppose have lots of it up at the company. I have been helping out around the hospital here some. There are so many sick and so little help. There are about fifty die here every day in the whole hospital. One hundred nine died in Boston yesterday, but they claim the worst of the epidemic is over now. There aren't as many coming into the Hospital now. Harold Davis works right over on the road from where I am. Have not seen him yet for I can't leave Hospital. I will have to take my inoculations all over now. That is the typhoid inoculation as if you don't have all three within nine days after each other they run out so you still I will have to \_\_\_\_\_ over Hospital here some. There are forty men sick and so little help. There are about fifty die here everyday in the whole hospital, \_\_\_\_\_ one hundred nine died in Boston yesterday, but they claim the worst of the epidemic is over now. There isn't as many coming into the Hospital now. Harold Davis works right over on the road from here. I have not seen him yet for I can't leave the Hospital. I will have to take my inoculations.

I am anxious to get out and find out all about the wedding and all the news.

Write so will get it the last of the week for I will surely be out of here in a couple days. At least I am a different man than I was last week but I am weak and get tired so easy.

I see the classification that \_\_\_\_\_ will be in, Class 2 or farming, experienced hand.

Must say good night dear ones.

George

[Hand printed: "Today eleven days in hospital"]

Dear Mother & Father,

Last night one of the fellows at the barracks brought down my mail and had fourteen. Summer Darling sent down the Gazette so you see I have had lots of amusement since yesterday, all of your letters and Esther's, and three from Sara, and twenty cards. I have read them all twice. How good they look to me. I never was so pleased to get anything in my life for you see I hadn't heard from you since a week ago last Friday. I have been in the Base Hospital eleven days tomorrow. I expect to go back tomorrow forenoon for just now I am feeling fine again.

If I had been on the dangerous list when I was sick they would have notified you, and you could have come and seen me and stayed with me beside the bed for all know of a lady from Connecticut. Her son had pneumonia, and she stayed up all night, but the next afternoon he passed away. Poor mother. How my heart just ached for her and how brave she tried to be for he didn't know her the last hours. Some of the fellows got her something to eat but eat she couldn't. Well, that's only one case. There are three or more dying in my ward every night so now I had got used to it a little. How funny it seems to see young lives going away but this influenza is a bad one and one is lucky to get well. I think my system as a whole was in wonderful condition, as you see I had taken care of myself all summer and could \_\_\_\_\_ off a lot. Nevertheless, I spend some sick hours and this is about the first time I have felt like writing. It leave one dreadful weak for a long time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. and Mrs. Darling talking with Summer but he was quarantined for two weeks after he came the same as all the rest. He was out sitting in the car with his folks, because I was out there sitting with the three for a few minutes, but he couldn't leave the barracks. Now he can. He is in just the building next to me, about eighty feet apart.

The boxes are at the barracks. They couldn't let me have them until I get back. They will save them for me.

I will write you more about coming the last of the week as I don't know but what I can get a furlough. If I can't I would like to have you come but I am afraid you folks can't stand it, especially Dad. He will have to be out in the cold and rough it, and \_\_\_\_\_ rents are high and hard to get. But of course if you were coming it would be better to come before it got

too cold to get settled. I like to think of you at home. Try and be happy for I take lots of comfort in thinking everything is fine at home, and a good \_\_\_\_\_ fire when I get home. I will write more later. Don't come when I find out more. In the meantime you can be thinking it over. There is quite a lot of carpenter work here.

When I read Esther's letter about the wedding I just couldn't keep from crying for I wanted to be there so, and had planned on it for so long. It was a great disappointment to me.

It would have been foolish for them to postpone it, but it was my only thought then. I wanted to be there so I read about it in the papers.

Where are Esther and Les now? Did you let all the water out of those little pit-cocks on the car I showed you? One on every cylinder and then the one at the bottom of the radiator. If the water should freeze in there it would crack the cylinders and ruin the car. If you don't understand about it call in someone that does. Did you put up the top? It should be up.

I wish this was over this very minute. I saw Harold Davis the other day. He works just across the street from where I have been in Hospital. He has a good job and does have to \_\_\_\_\_ himself. Hope I get something like that.

Yes, if there hadn't have been so many sick here at a time one would have got home care but when there are about seven thousand and sixty or seventy dying every day, it was some busy plan, and a lot of the fellows would have got well if they could have had a little more care but it's hard to take care of so many men.

I skipped over to the Y.M.C.A. to write this and have got to go back so dear father and mother, write often please for a letter is worth more than money any time. Do I owe Esther \_\_\_\_\_ money I got? I have spent some of it for things I needed.

Good night

Your loving Son,

George

[PENCILED IN: Late Sept. or early Oct. 1918 (Wedding on Sept. 23)]

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion

Tuesday 11:15 AM

Dear Mother and Father,

Received your letters, all of them, and appear with the wedding account in it, but not the others. Perhaps you hadn't better send Leslie's as I can read one in the Y.M.C.A. which is very near, and the paper I got was not done up. I don't know how I \_\_\_\_\_ got it.

They are going to issue passes. I understand this week I shall put in for one, if you decide to come, send telegram Thursday so I can meet you and not put in for a pass. I think sure I can get one this week or next. Wish Esther could be there. Yes, sister and I will always look out for one another, and we will always stick by each other and take care of each other's wants.

Why doesn't Dad write me more? You want to write. Letters are very welcome and I look for one every time the mail is called out.

If I don't come home this week I will call you up Saturday night about 9 o'clock. Be at Grandma's. Have Dad get down and I can talk some with him too.

Remember if you are coming down, plan to come before it gets too late in the fall or winter until one knows just where to go.

The Company Commander Captain Harrigan gave us a lecture last night. He said the war wasn't over and wouldn't be for a long time. Not very encouraging, is it? Well it's half past eleven and have got to get ready for dinner. I am at the Y.M.C.A. now, and it only takes one a minute to walk to the barracks. It is very near, and it's one of the best Y.M.C.A. camps here.

Hope to get the cake soon. Look for a bundle the last of week.

I won't need very much money, I guess. Two dollars will get me by until I get paid. I signed up for it last night. One of the fellows went home to see his mother who was sick and was gone three days, and all he got was three weeks confined to barracks. Not very much punishment. Do you think so? I am glad for his sake.

Write often. Have Esther write.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

Wednesday Night

[Upside down on top of page: "Has Esther gone yet?"]

Dear father and mother,

Here I am still at the Base Hospital, so have got your mail this week, a fellow from Rutland that I know is going to keep it for me. So it will be hard to know just what you have written. Expect to get out tomorrow or next day. I did not have pneumonia, nor was I dangerously sick. If I had been, they would have notified you and you could have come and seen me.

There is three die about every day in this war, and God pity the mother one especially today I noticed, she stayed up all night beside his bed, and he went to the beyond this afternoon, I could hardly keep from crying myself. It makes me think how little takes for this life to leave us.

I have been up since last Saturday, but my temperature isn't regular yet. Your loving son, George



Oct. 2, 1918

Wednesday Afternoon

Dear father and mother,

I have just got back to my barracks from the Base Hospital and believe me it seems good to get back. I am lots better, but still have dreadful pains in my head, sometimes it last half a day, and then go away, but I guess after a few days I will wear it off.

Saw Summer when I came back. He was wheeling a wheelbarrow carrying dirt. He stopped and talked with me a minute and was glad to see me.

Now you folks be very careful not to go out much where there is company or a crowd and take some physic for I tell you that influenza is more contagious than smallpox and it's a much more serious thing than most people think of \_\_\_\_\_ be careful of any letters and bundles I am sending home. Keep your handkerchief over your mouth and nose when you read the letter and burn up and my clothes. Let them out in the sun for a few days, and be careful for it's an awful thing. Many have died from it. So be careful for if you should be sick guess I would go crazy.

I got all the boxes and what do you know. The big cake was just as though you had cut it. The frosting was all on and I was surprised it keep so well. And the other things were just what I wanted and were fine.

Just had a letter from J. L. Tibbetts and it was very welcome. They say Dad took dinner there a few days after I left and that Louise was up and said Snipps couldn't stay there any more. I guess they don't want him around Uncle Wills by the sound. Lila said Snipps was looking for me when you and he were there, Dad.

Never mind just now about the winter under clothes as they have just given me three pairs of shirts and drawers, and good wool too.

Tell Esther to write for I don't know what her address is and do I understand you to say they go back the fifth?

Yes, I could have written when I was in the Hospital but I did all I felt like writing. I was pretty sick and couldn't write much. I did any time I felt like it and if I had been on the dangerous list they would have let you know, and could have come. I will probably have to stay

in the barracks here for a few days until I get strong again. The fellows think I look poor. I guess I have lost a little, not much though for I didn't have it to lose.

Just had another card from Sara written Sunday.

How I would like to see you folks, but I don't know what to say. I want to come home and have something good to eat, and if you come here I won't have it.

If at anytime anyone of you folks are sick you send telegram and I can come home. Send it on Thursday so I will be able to come Friday if you really are sick, and have to have a doctor. I can come on a 48 hour pass for a cent a mile. Pretty cheap on a 36 hour pass. It costs full rate. I have quite a washing but do not dare to send it home. I am afraid you will get the influenza. I am sending home pants, cap, hose supporters, union suit, shirt, and stockings. Don't need them anymore at the present.

Send my small dictionary when you can. I need it. I got the shoe brush in box all right.

In my pants pocket you will find \_\_\_\_\_ papers of exemptions. Please take good care of them. I might need them again some time.

I guess by the looks I just missed getting my pay this month. If that's the case I won't get any for another month, and then I will have lots coming. I hope not though for I need some. Will let you know more about it later?

I had to buy me tooth brush and paste and it does seem good to have a regular one, one that I can clean my teeth with. I have been getting only for month with an old one and a ten cent one the Red Cross gave me, and I was tired sick of it.

I have been busy since I got back getting any stuff together and have written a little and then worked a little, but have got nearly straightened around now and it seems good.

The fellows were all glad to see my back. It seemed good to think some one missed me. There has been air planes flying around here all day. Yesterday there were two.

How I wish I could have been to the wedding, but it's too late to wish that now.

I will write more often now for I am feeling much better and it will be all I have to do for next two or three days is to write you while I am quarantined to barracks.

Will close as ever

Your loving Son.

P.S. I think the dictionary is in a box on my trunk, the small one. You will notice I am sending the plate back. I rather expect another pie sometime along.

George

[Penciled in: "After Sept. 23 – Oct.?!]

Friday Morning

Dear Mother and Father,

Received your letter last night and was very glad to hear from you. I am very much better, and will be myself shortly as my strength is coming back fast since I have had solid food.

If Dad wants to buy my shoes I guess I will sell them to him. These shoes are pretty small for me, and I need a wider shoe for the army and would give them to you but I haven't any money to get more as I won't get my pay this month as I was in the Hospital when they signed for the pay roll.

Some of the boys had a cake come last night, Vermont fellows with maple frosting and they gave me some, and believe me, it was good. If you can send a cake, vanilla or chocolate with chocolate frosting, I know it will taste so good.

I am afraid I won't see Esther very much more now. How I wished we could have stayed at home until after the war. As I laid on my back this morning, I couldn't help but cry for I guess I was lonesome, and to think Esther was married and going away from home. Well, I had a little cry to myself and perhaps it did me good, but I get so awful lonesome for you folks. I wish this day was over, but it looks as though it would last for quite a while yet. Although they are driving the Germans, it's a long way to Berlin and I am afraid they will have a tuff one next spring to march into Germany. That is the talk here and we get it pretty straight. They of course now will drive the German to the border but beyond that will be difficult for Germany is so well fortified and then the army will be stronger on a \_\_\_\_\_ front and it will be harder for us as our communications will be harder to keep up so far from the base, and Germany can move troops more easily on a narrower front but in time of course the Allies will go through.

Louis Mulligan has been in the Hospital for two weeks with pneumonia and measles confined and is a pretty sick boy I guess. He will be very lucky to come out alive I guess for it's a bad combination.

There are having spinal meningitis here, and quite a few have it. That a terrible disease, and very few come out of it. They put stuff in our eyes and nose every night so we won't have it.

I doubt if Summer get a furlough as they are only giving a four days furlough once every three months, and he can't get home on a 36 hr. pass. When you come you take the 1:34 out of St. Johnsbury and get off at Manchester or Nashua and come across, that \_\_\_\_\_ going to Boston, and you make better time.

No, the Spanish influenza is going all over the world, even the King of Spain has it. No, the privates here make nothing of the inoculations. I don't mind them. It was the small pox vaccination that made me sick. The Typhoid inoculation didn't bother me any but some of the fellows faint but it didn't bother me. I guess it was the thought of the jab in the arm that scared them.

They won't give my any \_\_\_\_\_ for many days yet until I am perfectly able as they have had bad results giving it to sick men, although I got out of bed and got my \_\_\_\_\_ when I was sick and I guess it didn't hurt me. See by the paper there are 4,000 cases of influenza in Montpelier and Barre, and lots in Berlin \_\_\_\_\_ and all around the state. Now be very careful and not get it. If you feel sick \_\_\_\_\_ take a good physic for sometimes one dies in 24 hours with it.

We are having some beautiful weather here now.

Just got back from dinner. Had fish, tomatoes, mashed potatoes, and bread and tapioca pudding. Pretty fair dinner, but \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ as you remember I don't like fish or tapioca pudding, but managed to eat some.

Expect to get our winter suits this week or next and I will like that much better, and they look better. The summer suits don't look so well. I want to come home after I get it and show off before the crowd.

I hope I shall get into something besides the infantry, for I don't care for it and think I am better fitted for something else, but it's a good thing to know how to handle a gun for your own protection in case we go over there, and every soldier is supposed to know how in case of emergency.

If the trip didn't cost so much would like to have you come but I want to come home first if possible and they would like to have you folks come and stay in Ayer if possible. Anyway you had little wait until after the influenza is \_\_\_\_\_ .

We get out mail every noon and night, just went down but had nothing. Perhaps I will tonight.

Summer eats at the same place I do now. See him lots every day.

Will close for this time

As ever

Your loving Son

George

[Penciled in: "After Hospital]

Saturday

Dear Mother and Father,

Will just drop you a line to let you know I am getting along fine.

Read the book I am sending and the poem. Isn't the poem wonderful It almost makes the tears come.

Does Dad want my shoes? I don't know whether I will get my pay this month or not, as I was in the Hospital when they were around. If I don't, it will leave me pretty short, although I try and save all I can but I just have to get things to eat.

Just got back from dinner, just received Esther's card. Why don't you write more? I look in every mail for letters and boxes but it seems as though I never get any but it's my imagination for I do get lots but the more I get I guess it's more I want although you don't realize how good the things taste.

One of the fellows has been transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Division to drive an automobile. He is lucky I guess but still he probably will go across with the 12<sup>th</sup>. I hope to get something better soon.

Do you have a hard time reading my letter? Its hard to write very good as I am on my bunk, and its difficult.

I heard today about 1,500 of the boys here died of influenza and pneumonia. It's the saying around here that the strong survive and the weak finish. Some truth in it but if the boys that were in the Hospital could have had their mother's nurses they would have got well but they come little if you get well or not, but suppose they do the best they can with so many.

Ask Dad if he wants the shoes. Will let him have them for \$7.00. They cost me \$8.50 in Waterbury, and I haven't worn them but a very little, because they hurt my feet.

Oh, mother, if you aren't too tired and if you have anything to cook with, please send some cake, pie, doughnuts, cookies that you make yourself. they are so good.

I shall write Esther as soon as I know just where a letter will get her.

You see I am getting my strength back and it \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of food for me. I have lost some flesh the boys tell me, but if I keep up such an appetite I shall soon gain it back,

for it seems as though I eat all the time. Tell anyone if they want to send me anything, to send some thing to eat. That's what I need most.

Just think they charge sixteen cents for a package of Graham Crackers, which were only 10 cents. I can't afford them at that price. I eat Baker chocolate lots but get awful sick of it. That's the best I can do for my money.

I came near calling you up this morning but I thought it all over and thought likely I wouldn't be able to hear you and I shall see you soon, I hope. If not you are coming in a week or so.

Have you got your \_\_\_\_\_ yet? I'll bet you are glad to get them. Take good care of your silver, and keep all for when I come back home I will work for you both and can just sit down all day, but please be careful so I won't have to worry.

Don't worry about me for I shall take the best care of myself I can, and if God gives me strength I shall come as good as I left and I am going to be the best boy I can, the boy you folks want me to be, and I know it will take every ounce of strength for I'm not as good as I might be. You can always feel sure I am always doing the right thing all the time. The army is the make or break of a man, and it's going to be the making of me. I know you folks are waiting for me to come home again, and shall do it for your folks sake if for nothing more.

Hope to get my pay for this month.

Well done for this time

As Ever

Your loving Son

George



## PART THREE

[Penciled in: "After hospital"]  
35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Trng. Bat'n.  
151 St. Depot Brigade,

Thursday Morning

Dear Father and Mother,

Just for a change will try a pencil. I have just written a short letter to Sara and I have so much to tell you. Thought perhaps I could use a pencil.

I was talking with Summer Darling this morning. He said Dr. Wakefield's wife died of influenza. Now be careful. I see in Montpelier, Vermont there are 4,000 cases of it, and do for mercy's sake, try and take care and not get sick. Lay my clothes away from the house so you won't get it. I didn't wear any of the clothes I sent home during my sickness but there may be some germs in them. Keep a handkerchief over your mouth and nose. You had better keep at your mouth when you read my letters. Sometimes I cough a little and it might carry in a letter, just enough to make you sick, and you can, believe me, when I say you don't want it. About a thousand of the boys here died of it and pneumonia, just think of it. They say any one was lucky to come back from the Hospital alive, and I guess they are right.

There were one hundred twelve in the ward I was in and there shouldn't have been only thirty four so you see what a jam it was, and how little care they could give an individual. Three or four were dying every night all around me. I got mighty sick of it. My temperature was 103° when I went into the Hospital and I was a pretty sick boy, but the medicine worked good on me, and they gave me some aspirin pills and the next morning I was some better. It was a lucky thing. I didn't have pneumonia for I never had such a cold in my life, and the small pox vaccination had begun to work, and take everything. I felt pretty \_\_\_\_\_. This is the first morning I haven't had a headache, and the Dr. at the Hospital thought perhaps I might have to have an operation, to let the stuff out of my head. He said the gland or something was closed and it would bother me until it was out, but I guess all I needed was some of your cooking. I have eaten nearly every minute I have been back. Oh, but you don't know how good

it all tasted. The cookies were just find, and everything else. The cake was great. Have eaten it all up already and I only got here yesterday morning. I have some doughnuts and cookies left, but today will put the finish on them.

I am happy to feel better and things look different to me. That darned Hospital. I am glad to get away from it. I surely would have died if I had to stay there much longer.

I have a washing to do, but am putting it off. Am afraid I will catch. My cough is practically all done, but when I wrote you for the cough drops, I am afraid it is too much bother to keep sending me stuff, but you just don't know how good it tastes, mother.

I got my winter overcoat and winter underwear, and wool \_\_\_\_\_ and three pair at that and three pair of socks.

I see the Rutland papers once in a while. Abraham, a fellow from there, has it and he lets me take it.

Have Esther write or send me her address as I don't know just where she is.

I wonder why she did want me to know they were going to \_\_\_\_\_ Lake. I wouldn't have told anyone if she had told me so I know I would have told her and would have known she would have keep it a secret.

Wish you would try and send \_\_\_\_\_ things to her. Her address is 32 Burgess Street, Springfield, Mass. She is working in a telephone exchange in a Hotel. She keeps writing for them and I haven't got time or money to bother with her now.

Haven't seen Louis Milligan since I was sick. He belongs to the 27<sup>th</sup> Company just a stone's throw from here. I can walk in a minute and a half. I shall look him up as soon as I can.

The Y.M.C.A. is a wonderful thing for the boys here. I did my \_\_\_\_\_ up there and get out my writing material there. It means quite an item in a month's or year's time.

Wish I had some perjamers. I can't spell it, but in other words, nightdress. I don't believe it's healthy to sleep in our underclothes and wear them all the time.

You had ought to have seen the stuff I cough up. It was as green as could be, and just rotten and glad to be nearly over it. I am pretty weak, and it bothers me to walk up stairs much. Legs are weak. I will stop writing now and add a littler more this afternoon. There may be some thing I will think of to tell you.

Have Esther knit me some \_\_\_\_\_ to go on over the thumb when she gets time. I won't need them for a while yet, so she won't have to hurry about it.

Do you remember that fellow the \_\_\_\_\_ at Rutland had to go and get that morning? Well, he is in a bed beside me. He has been sick too and in the Hospital too. He isn't feeling very good this morning. I am feeling fine sitting on my bunk writing and I guess by the length of it you will think I am feeling some better. That blanket has come in handy more than once. What would you do with Snipp if you should come? Suppose he would stay with Grandpa and Grandma?

After dinner will add that I am feeling the same better, so don't worry anymore about me for I shall come all right now. You know the box of sandwiches you sent about the time I was sick. I could eat them I was so sick, and they got moldy and had to throw them away. Wasn't that too bad. Believe me but very little goes to waste for I get so hungry but I was sick then. I guess I will close for this time as have written all I think about for the present. I made a mistake and sent my belt home. I guess I should have kept it to have kept on my overalls. When we do fatigue work, we wear them to keep our pants clean.

As Ever,  
Your loving Son,  
George

## PART 4

[Penciled in: "After hospital"]

6:45 AM

Monday Morning

Dear Dad,

Just got back from breakfast. I expect to be doing light duty and though I had better start a letter for I don't know what's coming, nothing very heavy for a few days. I had got back most of my strength and am feeling lots better. You had ought to see me eat. It would scare you, I know.

I went up to the hospital yesterday and looked up Lewis Mulligan. He is better, but he came near going west as we say it. He had measles and the influenza together and was on the Dangerous List but for quite a while. He was much sicker than I for he was out of his head quite a while. He will be out in a few days now. He was glad to see me, and I know it. That's why I went when I was in. If I could have seen someone I know I would have \_\_\_\_\_ a good deal. Saw George Lyons. He is mess sergeant of the officers' mess hall. Went over there to supper and had some food last night, pork chops, cold roast beef, lettuce, tea, olives, pickles, bread and real butter, tea, milk, apple pie and ice cream, and orange pudding. Oh! that I was only an officer and get that food every day but us buck privates eat like animals beside the officers, and I really don't think it just right. Do you? The pie you sent was just fine when it got here. It's wonderful nice stuff comes through.

Last Saturday night I went down to the Enlisted Men's club where all the boys go for something to eat and had a steak, french fries, potatoes, bread and butter, three dishes of ice cream, cake, coffee, coco-cola [sic], and then came back and ate the pie and cookies, and a ten cent bar of chocolate. Now do you believe me sick? You see I lost quite a little and I am getting it back. It is just what I need. The doctor says to eat all we can to gain back.

We had quite a thunderstorm here Saturday night.

Saw Dr. Bernie \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday. He has been sick too. Saw Harold \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday night. He said Roscoe Cobb was coming down in the next draft.

Have seen a lot of boys from Rutland.

I hope I get something I like to do before long.

If you want me to call up some night, state the time and date in your next letter and I will call you. You get down to Grandma almost eight or half past. Some times it takes hours to get through so we will have to start early.

I hear they are going to give me some other shoes. If so, I will send my others home and you can have them.

I haven't got my money for this month, and am nearly broke. I don't know how I can save very much, and keep anything in my stomach. Of course my government insurance costs me \$7.00 a month, but there is one thing a fellow has got to get, stuff to eat or he will run down.

I had to ask you folks for some more money as I know you are short yourself, but I really had ought to have more. Perhaps I won't need so much to eat after I get my \_\_\_\_\_ back. Lewis thought I look pretty bad but I feel good and eat like a horse so I \_\_\_\_\_ I soon will have it back, I know.

I would like to have you come down next Friday and stay over Sunday but I am afraid you might catch the influenza and be sick although the influenza situation is very good here now but the place you would catch it would be on the train.

If you and another decide to come let me know right away, so can plan to meet you in at Ayer.

Really if you are coming, you or Esther had ought to come before it gets too cold. Yesterday was a wonderful day. There were lots of people here.

I will be awful glad to see you dear folks. You can come a week from next Saturday if you can't come next Saturday.

Well I haven't been called for dinner yet but will close for this time.

As ever

Your loving Son,

George

P.S. If you send a pound of sugar in your next package so I can have some on my cereal in the morning. I tell you do up in paper, three or four teaspoons of sugar, and make up two dozen and send them that way and I can put one in my pocket every morning and no one will be wiser.

8:45 PM

Tuesday Night

Dear folks,

Received your letter tonight and the box the cake was just great and everything just fine. How I wish I could get home every day, but that's almost too much to ask.

You can bet I shall put in for a pass, for I am very anxious to come home. They are going to give \_\_\_\_\_ some \_\_\_\_\_ this week, so will send my others.

Had a letter from Phyllis Hill tonight. It took them days for it to get here. It's about 3,000 miles there.

If you or Dad are taken sick, have the doctor send me a telegram to come. That is about the only way I can come unless I get a furlough. I am sending the pictures back. I didn't think they were very good. Did you? Write often, dear folks. I love to hear from you and Dad doesn't ever write. If I should happen to be sent out with the 12th Division, it may go in a few weeks at least there is to be no furloughs after the fifteenth to those that go as I understand it I really don't expect to go, but one can never tell.

Don't forget to send money. I have but a very little and I really need some, if I ever did, I get so hungry.

Good night dear ones,

As Ever,

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 St. Depot Brigade,  
Saturday, 9:10

Dear Mother and Father,

While I am writing a letter I have the telephone call in. I am afraid I won't be able to get you.

I am so afraid you will be sick, and I worry all the time. Be awful careful, won't you mother? I am a whole lots better. Gained five pounds this week, isn't that going some. I am heavier now than I ever was so you see I have gained wonderfully well.

When you send another bundle, send three wash clothes. I had those small ones and another face towel.

Had a box from Sara this noon, apples, pears, bananas, grapes, and a box of cube sugar. It was a very large box. Very good of her, wasn't it? Have fun with Louis all day, went down to see the airplane this morning.

Had a card from \_\_\_\_\_ this noon too. She asked me to come down but doubt if I can go. I am sick to come home all I can.

Well the call just came. It was hard to hear you, but it did seem so good to talk to you. Wish I could have been home though, don't you?

I am sending home five dollars. I have enough, dear mother, and if you need any more say so, and I will send it. Be awful careful mother and not get sick.

Summer was telling me today Mort \_\_\_\_\_ died. He also gave me the Gazette, and I read it after supper tonight.

The boxes you sent were wonderful, mother.

The Y.M.C.A. gave me a New Testament in a leather case and is real nice one.

I guess, mother dear, I will go back to the barracks and finish this tomorrow night as there are many things I want to say and I haven't time before taps to write it and have just found out it won't go out until tomorrow night.

What do you know? \_\_\_\_\_ wrote and asked me for some money. Some nerve. I wrote her and I don't ever expect she will ever \_\_\_\_\_ it and I hope not. It will please



me greatly if she doesn't. Gee, a soldier gets such small pay anyway and then to ask me for money. Well I guess not. I have seen all of her I ever want to, or anything like her.

Sunday 10:07

I will try and finish my letter, mother, now. Have just met Herman Davis and his wife. I am at the Hostess House.. Louis is with me. Oh! I worry because I am afraid you will get sick, if you feel the least bit sick, go right to bed and call a doctor, for \_\_\_\_\_ , and privates here who have tried to wear is off have dropped on drill field and died within an hour and influenza is the worst, the first 48 hours and they say if you

[Letterhead for several pages of this letter:

HOSTESS HOUSE  
National Young Womens Christian Association  
CAMP DEVENS, MASS.]

are careful, and one may get better, but lots die with it in 24 hours so take heed and don't fight it if you are sick.

I am scared sending my clothes home. I guess if you were taken sick it would drive me crazy. Have the doctor send a telegram if you are, so I can come home quick.

Saw Ralph Smith yesterday. We had dinner together.

It has been rainy weather here for the last two days. There are still a lot of boys in the Hospital here yet, and they expect 200 to 300 to die before it is over. Heard 10,000 had all ready gone west as we call it.

Sat beside Summer at the table this morning. We had a little chat.

When you come to Devens, you get off the train at Ayer and take a bus to the Hostess House and I will meet you here. That is the way they all do. It costs 15 cents from Ayer to the Hostess House.

The telephone call cost me 95 cents, but it was worth \$95 to hear you mother. You thought I had a cold but I haven't. It's the way I always talk on a telephone. I learned it when I

used to work in the telephone office at home. It carried a long distance. Wish I could have heard a little better.

I got my shoes yesterday and they are nice ones too.

I am getting fat, but when I get to work again, which I expect will be tomorrow, I will begin to lose a little around my stomach.

I expect I will have to have my winter suit altered a little and it may cost me three or four dollars to have that done.

After I get to bed nights I think of lots of things to write but they all leave me when I get around to write.

I read the first chapter out of the New Testament I got last night and will read a letter, a few verses each night, probably four or five.

Howard Batchelder just came along and had a talk with him. He said his mother was coming this next Saturday. I think it better for me to come home as long as I have had it because you might get it on the train or in Camp here. Don't you think that best?

Will close for this time dear mother. I am feeling fine so don't worry. Never was better in my life.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

[Penciled in: "Oct. (Columbus Day)]

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion

151 St. Depot Brigade

Friday Morning 7:30 A.M.

Dear Mother and Dad,

I started a letter to you last night but didn't finish it. There is to be no passes issued this week. Say, would you believe it? I have gained three pounds since Sunday so you can see where some of the food has gone.

Tomorrow is Columbus Day here and we have very little to do all day. It is four weeks ago since I was taken sick or since I have done any drilling. I began to think I am lucky in more ways than one for the fellows that are all right are being transferred to the Coast Artillery, and quite a few left this morning for Boston. That is where they will be stationed for the present. That is just the same as Field Artillery and don't know as I would like it, although I might rather expect they are going across after a few months training.

When you come down you leave Hardwick at 8:00 P.M. Take the 1:34 from St. Johnsbury, and get off at Nashua and take the train from there to Ayer. It is cross country and you make better time and also is much cheaper.

Saw Harold Davis yesterday. He was telling me the train connections. Thought he might know as he had been over the road so many times. I received the letter and money and also box at same time. Gee, but the pie was great and everything was just fine. Have it all eaten up so quick. The sugar works fine that way, but I am afraid it will \_\_\_\_\_ you as I know how hard it is for you to get it.

Had a talk with Summer yesterday. We talked over the news about every time we see each other, and that is quite often.

Never mind Leslie's mother. I can see them in the Y.M.C.A. here, and it will have postage.

I guess I will be a regular writer if I keep writing so much. I write quite long letters. Don't you think so? Well perhaps after I get to drilling and working harder I will be tired, and they will be shorter, just to let you know I am alright.

Saw two more fellows from Vermont I knew. Tuttle from Hardwick and McCleary from Rutland. You probably don't know any of them, but one is Ruby Tuttle's brother. She went to Vermont when Esther did. His picture is in the one over the desk.

It is great to get things from home but I am afraid it is making it pretty hard for you. If the quarantine was lifted I could insist you coming this week but with the epidemic raging all over different parts of the country, I am afraid you folks would be more apt to catch it. I shall try real hard to come home next Saturday. Think perhaps I may see the company commander, and see if he won't help me out on it a little.

Louis and I were together yesterday afternoon and last night and we are going for a walk this morning. It is just beautiful here these days, and I stay out in the sun a lot, as the doctor says it is the best medicine there is.

The doctor also advised everyone that smoked or chew to use as much as they could for it would help kill the germs of influenza, but didn't advise anyone that did use it to try. I think perhaps for the last few days I have used too much for my throat is a little sore from smoking and I am pretty sure that is it.

Summer says it costs him 60 cents a day to keep filled up, and guess he must get hungry too. I guess if that the case, he and I won't say much at least until we get hardened in anyway.

The talk is the fellow that had the influenza won't go over with the 12<sup>th</sup> Division.

Well must close for this time.

As Ever            Your loving Son

George

[Written on top of page over letterhead: "I will call up tomorrow night. Hope I can hear you good. Summer says he can hear fine. -G-"]

October 10, 1918

Thursday Morning 7:15

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well, had a letter from sister yesterday, and I guess she is lonesome staying alone all day while Leslie is at work.

I am getting fatter every day now. Haven't done anything as yet. We are having some beautiful weather. Have now very few cases of influenza.

There is one thing that you want to be very careful about and that is in writing my address. Write it very plain, especially the company, 35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Trng. Bn. The Trng. is training, and if you ever lack room omit it. Just 35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Bn., 151 St. Depot Brigade. Am sending bundle shoe, summer underwear, socks, towel, winter underwear. The summer suit is one I wear at the Hospital. I have washed it once the best I could but it needs more, I guess. Be very careful about these and take the necessary precaution as you spoke about and no hurry for any of it, anytime within a week or ten days.

I haven't received any money. Have you sent some? Perhaps hereafter you had better send money order, or registered letter. The Post Office is near here, and it will be safer as some valuable mail has been missed at the barracks, and we haven't anything to lose. Have you bought a Liberty Bond? You know every one of us have got to put our shoulder to the wheel to win the war and everyone get into it, and the sooner it will be over, and less lives lost. I think it would be proper to get a thousand dollars' worth. There certainly is nothing better than government bonds, and you see people are drawing their money from the bank to buy bonds and that is bad for the bank in a way. It reduces the capital, and perhaps it might go under. Better get some. If the old government isn't good, we won't need money for Germany will get us and every day you put it off means more delay, and we want this war over as soon as possible.

Lewis Mulligan is out around now. We were together last night at the Enlisted Men's Club. Had quite a talk. Summer was there too.

Say, there has been something. I have been thinking of for quite awhile, and more lately than ever. I wish to see about getting a family lot in the cemetery at the top of the hill. It's near the old home, and I think it ought to be seen to if it isn't too late. Get after it for I

want to think that we will be together. Don't you think it would be better? Not that I expect any of us to die right away, but such things ought to be attended to before the time.

If I could see my way clear, I should buy a Liberty Bond. O! Mother dear, how good the food was. The doughnuts were so good. Do make some more, for they hit the right spot. They were fairly warm when they got here and the cake was perfect. How hungry I get. If anyone wants to know what I want, tell them to send me something to eat for I have everything else, but it's the hardest thing to keep filled up, and I have such an appetite nowadays.

I am at the Y.M.C.A., paper and string to tie the bundle up free, and it's about as far as Grandma's is from the barracks. The number of it is Y.M.C.A. 25. It's a good one, has lots of music.

Hope I will be able to get a furlough this week. If not, I guess you will have to go to bed, and call the doctor, and tell him you are sick and have him send a telegram to me. That's the only way perhaps I can get there.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Division started or at least part of them yesterday as I understand, only what I heard.

I have a nice heavy coat for this winter. It's been used before, but is better cloth, and heavier than the new ones. I expect we get our winter pants and coats this week.

Tell Dad he can have the shoes until I come home. Wear them for \_\_\_\_\_, for they cost \$8.50 and are nice ones, now be \_\_\_\_\_ and wear them. Don't put things away. They will spoil and all dry up.

It's going to be another beautiful day here. If I should come home Saturday I won't be able to leave here until 11:00 A.M. and someone will have to meet me in St. Johnsbury at 2:00 A.M. I will send you a telegram Saturday noon and you can get to the station along about 4 or 5, to see if there is one, old Rowell may not deliver it for weeks if he gets an extra drink down.

Try and be there when the train comes in, so I can get home quick. It would be too much of a drive to make in a team, wouldn't it? Wish I had some friend whom had a car to meet me there. \_\_\_\_\_ would not bother himself nor probably do it very cheap. If you get a telegram, make some arrangement to meet me there. Perhaps Leo Johnson or someone has a motorcycle with a ride car. That costs very little to run, and ought to be cheap, only for the hour.

I was put on light duty last Saturday but hadn't done anything as yet. Shall take a walk again today with Lewis down around the Hostess House where the wives' mothers and sweethearts stay when they come. It's funny. They don't make a plan for the dads and brothers too.

Will close for now,

As Ever

Your loving Son,

George

P.S. Now tell Dad to write. Tell me all about everything. I have written all thru in 30 minutes. Best regards to Grandma and Grandpa. Tell them I will see them soon. Had a letter from Aunt Etta yesterday.

Will write a letter more. Find out if you can when Roscoe Cobb leaves for camp and at what time he expects to get here. I can be at the receiving station and find out where he is sent and also see him.

Lots of the boys have been transferred out of the company and others leaving every day.

Send some Stag tobacco. I can't buy it here. About three or four boxes. Get it at LaJoy's. You can get it cheaper there than anywhere else. Better buy up some so you can send it to me as long as I need it. The tobacco I get isn't as good.

Hope Esther and Leslie can come down for I won't be able to get there, and I don't think a 36 hour pass would get me to Schenectady and back.

Have met a lot of fellows from Vermont, Brandon, Burlington, and lots of other places. Judge \_\_\_\_\_'s son was killed in France from Rutland, the first in his company to fall.

There is a Rutland Captain in the 74<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Clement is his name. He went to Plattsburg the time I tried to get in. He got a first lieutenant there and has recently been promoted to a captaincy here. Wish I knew him. Perhaps he could help me to something.. That's the only way one can get ahead here is from that way. There is also a General \_\_\_\_\_ here from Rutland. Some of the fellows know him, and he has helped them to something nice.

Have Dad find out if Dr. Wakefield is coming back and what his address is. I will look him up, perhaps he may help me to something. One has got to keep awake and look for every chance he can. I like horses and perhaps he might work me in as his assistant in some way.

Well, it's twenty minutes past eight and will give the pen a rest for guess I could save one for \_\_\_\_\_ at a time. I will send you some money when I get my pay, and you folks use it after I have paid back what I owe you for \_\_\_\_\_. Perhaps it won't be very much. \_\_\_\_\_ use it. You can make it up to me some time, and I don't care whether you do or not.

As Ever

George

[Written on top of letterhead: "When you come down, and if you should be hunting me up. be sure and say 35<sup>th</sup> Company, Depot Brigade as there is a 35<sup>th</sup> Company, Machine Gun Company"]



35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

October 15, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

Well yesterday was the first day I have drilled for a long time. This morning I get my first inoculation and have a 48 hour rest. The inoculations, they bother me now little.

I shall be pretty tired right when I begin to drill again, and if you don't hear from me every day don't worry. Last night I was real tired, and no one goes to bed until 10 o'clock and get up at 5:30 o'clock. One doesn't get anymore sleep than he needs.

It's a beautiful day here only it's a little cold when the wind blows.

They say the influenza is breaking out here again, and we will be in quarantine for four weeks to come. I want to see you so bad and would ask you to come, but I am afraid you would get the influenza and its effect on some people is fatal. Ones system has got to be pretty strong to stand it. I think the only thing that saved me was the wonderful condition I was in when I came here, and the fact I hadn't smoked cigarettes for a year, which is weakening to the heart. Anyway, I thank God that I came out of it all right, and I think every one should that did come out of it.

Hope you get the other letter all right with the money.

Was over to supper with George Lyons last night. Louis was with me. I have got filled up for once. I am heavier than I ever was before. When you can, mother, send some of those wonderful doughnuts.

You remember Arthur Sanford, the minister's son? He is in the Depot Brigade, 30<sup>th</sup> Company. He has been here twelve weeks. He's a corporal. Saw him the other day. He is looking poor. Guess he has to work pretty hard.

Herman Davis looks too white to be healthy, but don't tell his folks. They might worry about him.

There is quite a lot of carpenter work around here and I am sure Dad could get a job here outside contractors are ~~scarcely~~ it. You must plan to spend the winter near me, so I can see you often. Don't tell the folks up there you are coming for they can't talk about what they don't know.

I hope I can come home soon, and then you can come down here. Shirley is a small town about two miles from here, and a nice place to live, reasonable I hear. We will go over and see when you come. We had a hike over there yesterday and back, ~~~~~ drilling all forenoon, so you see I did quite a bit for the first day but I am not lame, and have a forty eight hour rest ahead of me, and I am very glad to get it although it seemed good to get out on the drill field again.

I write so often there seems to be very little new this time, so guess I will close for now.

As Ever

Your loving Son,

George

P.S. Had a letter from sister last night. She is feeling better and isn't so lonesome I guess as she was.

Do you need any more money? I have twelve dollars, and I can spare you some if there is anything you want. Be sure and tell me, mother, for I worry about you folks, because I am planning in a year to be with you, and then how happy we will be, and Esther can come home, too.

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

October 16, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

Will just drop you a line to tell you now I am well, and will be drilling tomorrow.

I bought a liberty bond today. They take five dollars out of my pay for the next ten months. It really seems a shame to think the soldiers ~~~~~ have to buy them, as little money as they get.

Have just left Louis and stopped in on my way past the Y.M.C.A.

Received your letter and box, and everything was fine. The doughnuts were fine, and you can bet I enjoyed all of it. The sugar makes my breakfast much better.

I heard the influenza is worse in Hardwick than any other place in the state of its size.

Esther told me that there were very few cases in Schenectady, and they were taking every precaution to stop it spreading, oiling the streets, etc.

Don't worry about me, mother dear. I am all right, only wish I could see you folks.

Send that coat hanger that folds up. The wire one with cloth on it in some. They just called out last call for tonight's mail. So will close.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

October 18, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

I am writing you hoping you will get it tomorrow night. I wonder why I haven't heard from you. Haven't had many letters this week.

Is the influenza situation any better up there? I hope so. It is much better here.

Will you send me some of that stuff to take ink and iron rust of cloth? We have to be real neat and clean for inspection every night. You cannot have a spot on ones clothes.

I have got to have something to wear on my hands very soon. It's pretty cold 5:30 in the morning.

Someone put a piece of bread in the garbage can this noon and the whole company had to go without it for supper. If I didn't have some money to buy food with, guess I would starve. I have \$8.75 now.

Well I shall be home for good soon. The way things are going the war is nearly over. Germany and Austria are about to give up, for they know there is no use. I hardly think I will ever see over there the way it looks now.

I am playing football, be gone today, although I won't be able to play a game for a long time to come, on account of my inoculation, and the general condition I am in but I get out of drilling in the afternoon. Write often, mother dear, and tell Dad he must write.

I am feeling fine only tired.

Your loving Son

George

Will you find out Cabot Bullard's address from his mother?

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

October 21, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

Received your letter and was very glad to get it. I played football today, and won the game for the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

I have been picked for a non commissioned officer so shall be pretty busy nights going to night school, so if I don't write, don't worry, for I am feeling fine. I made a great hit with the officers today in football and my promotion will come fast if I put a little study into it. They like the looks of me, I guess.

Write Esther for me and tell her I expect to be home some time next month for a few days furlough.

I am pretty tired tonight but am feeling fine. Never was better.

Don't believe all Mrs. Darling and Aunt Mae tell you. It's not Y.M.C.A. 25 I am near. It is 24, and I can give you more dope on when you get here than anyone else. Get off your train at Ayer and take a bus for \$15 to the Hostess House and let me know when you are coming and I will meet you there. Go right in the Hostess House and make yourself at home, if I am not there to meet you.

Why don't you and father come this week if you can before it's too cold? Let me know by Wednesday or Thursday so I can get rooms. I will have to have a few dollars. I am getting low. Please send it at once.

[Written on side of page: "If possible, I do not want to know any of Bob's friends. Went to church Sunday."]

Who is sick up there? that Aunt Mae is - \_\_\_\_\_?

Is Grandma or Grandpa sick?

Why didn't you tell me what time you leave Hardwick, or find out what time you will get into Ayer and let me know so I can get room ahead as it is very hard to get them unless you speak ahead for them. Try and get here in the morning if possible. If not, you should probably

can get here easy. You know women aren't allowed in Camp after 7:30 PM so it's quite essential you get here in the morning. The influenza is all over here now.

Although perhaps you had better wait. I shall be home in a few weeks, and then you can come. Then the epidemic or influenza will be over.

Will say good night, dear father and mother.

Your loving Son

George

P.S. The war is about all over I guess (all over Europe).

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

October 26, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

Received your letters and the dollar, also your other one with the two dollars in it. I have just got back from church. It was communion Sunday. The barracks are quarantined for measles, and don't know when it will be lifted. Won't be able to come home until it is lifted, nor are we allowed to leave the barracks.

I see by the paper Austria Hungary has quit. That sounds good. Hope they have. Germany will have to fall next.

I get paid on the first or second of next month. I won't get only fifteen dollars, as I have taken a Liberty bond.

You sent the underclothes I wanted and all. I would like those you bought me or at least one.

Did you get my bundle, with the picture? Could you find \_\_\_\_\_? The fellow next to me on the right is Churchill from Brandon. He is my bunkie and we pal a lot together. He is married. He married a girl from Craftsbury.

We play football tomorrow the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. It's going to be a hard game and my whole future lies in it. If I play a good game things will be coming my way here after.

By and by, and just as soon as you can with convenience send my basket ball shoes and the pants, and white and red stockings, the best ones, \_\_\_\_\_ ones, with the black elastic on the bottom and the white elastic bands I hold up my stockings with and the jersey, the one there isn't much to. It's a Goddard jersey, with a G on the front but guess you can't see it by this time. The brown pants are the ones I want, and shoes. Did you get the five dollars I sent home quite a while ago?

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ hurry to the post office, mother. I can always wait for I am never in a hurry. Please remember this.

I understand I am on the permanent personnel. That is, I won't be transferred, and I will get a chance to go to Officers Training School, which I would like. I am feeling fine.

I shall try and get by some how until pay day, but it's a crime the way they bleed a soldier here and to think what little pay he gets. I am going to send home a bundle with some leggings. Boil them with ammonia or something in the water to take the color out. I want them a pure white if I can get them so. The doughnuts and pie and cake and all was very fine.

I am in better health than I ever was before. It's a great place for a fellow, but of course there are dangers of getting diseases that he wouldn't in civilian life.

I enjoyed your letters very much and write often and long ones.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George



35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

October 30, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

Your letters received, and the amount of \$4.00 in all now. Is that what you have sent?

I just got my last inoculation this morning. I am feeling fine, only tired. I guess football is what does it, but if I can keep going, it will bring forth some thing better for me in the near future.

About money, I have been short but payday is near and I shall try hard to tide things over until then. I don't spend any foolish, only for eats and I really need them. I get so hungry. I really am heavier than I ever was before.

I shall be home some time in November for a few days. It was wonderfully \_\_\_\_\_ here for the last few days, really too hot after the cold spell we have had.

There isn't much news to write only I am all right, mother dear. I shall be home soon and see you all. Won't we have a wonderful time?

How is Jim getting along? Keep away from \_\_\_\_\_. They would like to have you get it. That's what I think of them.

I must close, dear mother and father, for now. Write often. I will tell you lots when I get home, so what I don't write you, Dad will tell you then.

As Ever,

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

November 1, 1918

Dear Mother,

Your letter received and also the box. I shall try and come home this week if I can get a furlough. I haven't received any letters from Dad except what he wrote and put in yours. Don't worry, mother dear. I am always thinking of you and nothing could change me for you are the dearest little mother in all the world, and you can always feel assured that no matter what happens I am always thinking of you and the time when we can be together once again.

If I can't get a furlough this week, I can soon and then you can come here so to be near me all the time. Will look around a little in the meantime, and see what there is.

Why don't you go to Grandma and stay this winter. You would be nice and warm, and don't work too hard, take it easy.

Had a letter from Sis, as I guess I told you in my last letter to you, said she was feeling fine now.

It's a pretty pity we are so short of money. I need some and you need some worse. I shall have to see that you have some of the comforts of life some how. If ever this war is over, I shall see you have them for after all, this life is only to make one another happy, to see that your own folks are comfortably situated. I did realize is so much until I came here. We never know what the next day will bring forth.

There are changes all the time. We just think we are settled and a call comes in and we are moved. I have been very lucky so far, but lots of the boys came the same time I did, are on their way across.

Just got my rifle the other day and guess my troubles have just commenced. Inspections are very rigid, and if there is a drop of oil or a fleck of dust you are out of luck for a furlough or a pass. Not a spot can be on your clothes for inspection or you are out of luck again. Have to share every day for retreat.

These are only a few of the many things we have to do, and you can just imagine what a busy life it is, and it's the fellow who looks slick and trim that gets promoted. This military game is a mighty big one and one has got to play square to win.

In case I don't get home this week, I shall see you soon, and I guess this will be the Sunday letter, as I probably won't write again until Sunday.

I hope you and Dad won't \_\_\_\_\_. It hurts me. Please try and make it agreeable for him, and keep in the best of health until after the war and I will look after you folks then. I could sacrifice everything, mother, and \_\_\_\_\_, if I only know you were happy.

As Ever,

Your loving Son,

George

Please, Dad, write a letter and take good care of yourself.

[Written on top and side of page:

“The box was very good mother. How good the doughnuts were and all but I am afraid you are going without them and sending them to me.”]

“What's all the life for if it isn't to make us four happy and look out for one another. Please make a pleasant for one another if you could only see what I have at the Hospital, families broken and hearts broken. You would think different I guess. Life would seem different.”]

-Part 6 -

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade

151 St. Depot Brigade

November 5, 1918

Dear folks at home,

I arrived here O.K. Monday morning. Received the letter with dollars, and also bundle. I was pretty tired yesterday. When did you go home?

Had a letter from Esther. She was peeved the telegram got all mixed up, and before it got straightened out the train had gone, and Sunday she missed the train and it made here feel bad.

There isn't much news as I told it all to you I guess. I had quite a rest by getting a berth, but it was rather expensive. Don't you think so?

I shall have to make some arrangements for money. You need all you have mother and I hate to think of you sending it under such circumstances, but surely I don't know what to do. I need some things. Suppose Grandpa would send me some.

I am going to send home a bundle some time this week. Summer was up to see me last night.

Write often, dear ones. I shall try and come home in the near future. The war situation looks better all the time. Hope things can be settled up soon, and all the boys can go home.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 Street Depot Brigade  
Camp Devens, Mass.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6, 1918

Dear Mother and Dad,

Received your letter tonight. We expect to go to Bangor, Maine this Saturday. If we don't go, Sister is coming. I want you to come, dear mother, but it will cost \$50 without a doubt. If you come leave Hardwick on the 8:00 and you get here at 7:30 A.M. Get a bus from Ayer to the Hostess House and wait for me. I will get down there some time in the forenoon around 10:30 or perhaps earlier if possible. You can get something to eat there and easy chairs to sleep or rest in. In case you want me, ask where the 35<sup>th</sup> Company, Depot Brigade is and anyone will tell you.

I am nearly broke, mother. I don't know what I am ever going to do and I know the situation at home. Dad had better come too and see what there is for work here, and hereabouts and then I can come home the next week or the week after. I shall be home for good in a few months, it may be six months before I am discharged but the fighting is about over, I guess.

Yes, I got everything O.K., letter and bundle.

Pretty tired tonight

So Good Night

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Trng. Bat.

151 St. Depot Brigade

Nov. 11, 1918

Dear Mother and Father,

Well I guess the war is about over although it may be months before it is so I can come home for good.

Received your letter today with the two dollars, first one I have had for a long time.

Some good news I guess. I was officially made a corporal today. So now my letters will be Corp. George T. Angell.

I went to Franklin last Saturday and had a good time. Saw Mr. Pierce and Floyd Hosie and had some great eats.

I really need about twenty five dollars, but can make ten go for now, but have surely got to have that much anyway, as I brought it to go to Franklin. I used about \$7.00 but bought some glass tonight, cost 1.00 so you see I have much now. I get \$3.00 more a month now but there are some clothes that would add greatly to my appearance, and that I ought to have. Please send at least \$10 so I will get it this week as I promised to pay the fellow back this coming Wednesday. So please give it your \_\_\_\_\_ attention. I only had a 36 hour pass and could not get it extended so that was about the only way I could use it was to go to Franklin.

Hope this finds you a lot better, mother. \_\_\_\_\_ and have the doctor send a telegram if any of you are sick.

Dad, why don't you write more?

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 St. Depot Brigade  
Nov. 12, 1918

My dear Mother,

I thought I would write and tell you that if you are coming to Camp Devens, you had better come this week. Leave there Friday night and get here Saturday morning, and take a bus from Ayer to the Hostess House, which will cost 15 cents each. Be sure and get your breakfast at Ayer before you come up. Ask anywhere and they will tell you where to get a bus. It is right there by the depot. Perhaps it would be better for you to wait in the Ayer station and will come there and meet you, but I can't get off until about 10:00 o'clock so you will have quite a wait. You come up to the Hostess House after you get your breakfast and it will be much more convenient for you there, and I will come there. (final)

The reason is we may be transferred soon and I may not have a chance to see you or come home. They are talking of closing up this camp for the winter. The war is over and I shall be home for good in a few months. I need some money real bad. I owe \$10.00 to a fellow and I had to get my winter suit altered, which will cost \$3.00, and I need a new hat real bad. Please send fifteen so I will get it this week. Now be sure I will try and not ask for anymore but I need that to get into line.

Let me know if you can't come in time.

You see we had a tip that we were going to be shipped out of here in the next two weeks.

I am going to write Sis, a letter to come too.

Be sure and send my stock tie in my trunk, both of them. I think I have two, you know what they are. The white ones that go around your neck and tie, almost a yard in length.

Try and come if you can.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

I am expecting Dad to come too for there are lots of things to show him, and it would be better if you had a man to look after you in Ayer.

[Written in margins:

“Let the man on the bus to let you off at the Hostess House.”

“Send the money by a money order so it won’t get lost.”]



35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 St. Depot Brigade  
Nov. 20, 1918

Dear Mother,

Will write a few lines which you ought to get tomorrow. Since you have left more news has arrived. They are going to keep 55 men out of each company in the Brigade for a few months until after the 26<sup>th</sup> Division returns form over there. I hope that I am not one of them for it won't be very pleasant work in my imagination for it will consist of guard duty and fatigue work. Hope I am not one of them for I have enough of the army now the war is over. If I am chosen, I probably would get a few days furlough pass before going. That is about I expect they would give the men, but one can never plan on anything in the army, only take what comes. I \_\_\_\_\_ to you and Dad must come here for the winter, or near here so I can see you.

By the way, send my summer underwear I sent home. I will have to turn them in when I get army discharge. We are only allowed one suit of underwear and outside suit.

Send the suits as soon as possible. If you can't mail them by Friday never mind for I perhaps would get them, or I might be out of here and in that case they might get lost.

Hoping you get home alright and had a nice trip.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
151 St. Depot Brigade  
Camp Devens  
Friday

Dear Mother,

Received your letter this morning. The reason I haven't written before is that I thought I might be home shortly but for some unknown reason it is coming about slowly and I may have to stay a few months long. Understand some of us have to stay. I hope I don't have to now the war is over. I don't care how quick I get home but if I have to I would make the best of it as there is no other way. Perhaps you folks can come down this way if I have to stay.

I was in Worcester Thanksgiving up to \_\_\_\_\_ and had dinner and came home about half past eight. Had a good time.

I am very short of money but I hate to ask you for any. Don't you suppose Grandpa will help me out a little? I went to Springfield the other weekend and saw \_\_\_\_\_ . She showed me the schoolhouse where she teaches and went all through it. I stayed until one o'clock in the morning. Had a good time. If you can be sure and send the money Monday if you aren't too tired to go down street. I am going to ask Esther for a few dollars too for I really need some. You \_\_\_\_\_ my Liberty Bond, and Relief Fund, and insurance take up most of my pay. Two or three ought to help me out alright. Don't send it later than Tuesday morning for I might not get it but I surely will if you mail it Thursday.

Hope Grandpa is a lot better and be sure and give them \_\_\_\_\_ my best regards and tell them I will see them before long.

Will say good night, dear mother.

As Ever

Your loving Son

George

P.S. It was a beautiful day here yesterday. Saw \_\_\_\_\_ at Worcester. She is sick at \_\_\_\_\_ .

[Penciled in: "Nov."]

35<sup>th</sup> Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion

151 St. Depot Brigade

Wednesday

Dear Mother and Father,

Received your card last night. I have just got back from my second inoculation and have 48 hours off light work.

Had a card from Esther yesterday. She has been quite busy sewing the past week I guess.

I want the woolen suit returned and one of my own that you got me.

We are having quite cold nights here but it's very nice day times.

Summer told me Carl Emerson died of the influenza.

About coming. I don't know what to say, but perhaps you had better wait as I shall be home soon.

Remember, I am really busy. I have to study nights some for non commissioned officers school. Hope I can keep up and do well. I will be a officer in a year if I can handle it. Take \_\_\_\_\_ and all I am pretty tired nights although I feel good all the time. I have a little cold but not bad. I have taken some physic and it's mostly in my head.

Will close now for I have to write sister.

As Ever,

Your loving Son,

George

-1-

BIRTH—MALE			
Name of Child	Angell, George T.		P 267
Color	No. of Child of Mother		
Date of Birth	1893	Month Feb.	Day 18
Maiden Name of Mother	Rosa		
Mother's Birthplace	Woodbury	Age	
Mother's Residence	Hardwick		
Full name of Father	Timothy E. Angell		
Father's Birthplace	Woodbury	Age	
Father's Occupation	Carpenter		
Condition of Child as to Live or Still Birth	Live	Still	
If Still Birth the Cause			
Name of Informant			
Town	Hardwick, Vt.	I.A.Shattuck	Town Clerk





Angell Family  
So. Woodbury, Vt.  
Fall 1897

Frank Angell	Fred Angell	Timothy Angell	Will Angell
Rose (Trow) Angell [wife of Timothy]	George W. Angell	Sarah (King) Angell	Vienna (Wheeler) Angell [wife of Will]

Etta Angell	Carrie (Cobb) Angell [wife of Fred]	Lucille Angell [daughter of Fred]	Esther R. Angell [children of Timothy]	George T. Angell	Bernice Angell [daughter of Will]	Rena Angell [daughter of Frank]	Evelyn (Wheeler) Angell [wife of Frank]	Leticia Angell [daughter of Frank]
----------------	---	--	--	---------------------	---	--	--	--

[Frank, Fred, Timothy, Will, and Etta were the five children of George W. and Sarah (King) Angell. George and Sarah and the four sons lived in her parents' home on adjoining property until 1868.]

F-PO-ANGELL

GIFT OF ELEANOR  
ANGELL, 1996  
MUS. Acc. No. 1996.24

Name *Angell, George Timothy* ✓

Date of Birth *Feb. 18, 1894*

Parent or Guardian Address *J. E. Angell  
Hardwick, Vt.*

SUBJECT	1912-1913				1914-1915				1916-1917				1918-1919			
	1	2	3	Av.	1	2	3	Av.	1	2	3	Av.	1	2	3	Av.
Algebra <sup>Elem.</sup>   <sup>Adv.</sup>																
Arithmetic																
Astronomy																
Bookkeeping																
Botany																
Chemistry																
Civil Government																
College English																
Comp. English																
Elocution																
English 1st yr.																
French <sup>1st yr.</sup>																
Geometry <sup>Plane</sup>																
Geometry <sup>Solid</sup>																
German yr.																
Grammar Eng.																
Greek Yr.																
History English																
History France																
History Greece																
History Rome																
History U. S.																
Latin yr.																
Literature Amer.																
Literature Eng.																
Phys. Geography																
Physics																
Physiology																
Political Econ.																
Rhetoric																
Spelling																
Sten. and T. W.																
Trigonometry																
Music																
Drawing																

Conduct *6*

Library Bureau 027405

Name  
 Address *Angell, George T  
 Hardwick, Vt.*

Entered *Sept. 1912*  
 From *Goddard Seminary*

Left *June 1913*  
 Graduated Course  
 From Here Entered

Business or Profession *1925 - ~~Proprietor~~  
 Confessionery, Room at Hardwick*

Married  
 1) *Mary Hester Weirle, Feb. 8, 1919, at Rutland Vt.  
 Daughter, December 23, 1920, Carolyn Rose,  
 Son, ~~January~~ December 31, 1925, George T. Jr.*  
 2) *Ruth Knight, June 7, 1949*

Remarks *1915 ~~Degree of B.S. at "Tufts"~~  
 Dean Roll of Honor  
 1949: Lives, 30 Hartford St., Frammingham, Mass*



Form 1 **1633** REGISTRATION CARD **807** No. **1092**

1 Name in full **George Timothy Angell** Age, in yrs. **24**  
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address **77 Williams St. Rutland, VT**  
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth **Feb. 18 1893**  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natu. -born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? **Natural Born**

5 Where were you born? **Hardwick, Vermont U.S.A.**  
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? **—**

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? **Working in a creamery 30**

8 By whom employed? **N.A. Temple**  
 Where employed? **Rutland, VT**

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? **No.**

10 Married or single (which)? **Single** Race (specify which)? **Caucasian**

11 What military service have you had? Rank **No**; branch \_\_\_\_\_  
 years \_\_\_\_\_; Nation or State \_\_\_\_\_

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? **No.**

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

**Geo. T. Angell**  
(Signature or mark)

*If person is of African descent, tear off this corner*

44 11  
REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 | Is tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Tall | Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Medium

2 | Color of eyes? Brown | Color of hair? Brown | Bald? No.

3 | Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No.

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Atty. A. Clark  
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct .....

City or County RUTLAND CITY

State VERMONT

JUN 5 1917  
(Date of registration)

Birth Record courtesy of Ancestry.com

## U.S., Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976

Vermont &gt; 1919 &gt; Roster of Vermont Men and Women in the World War

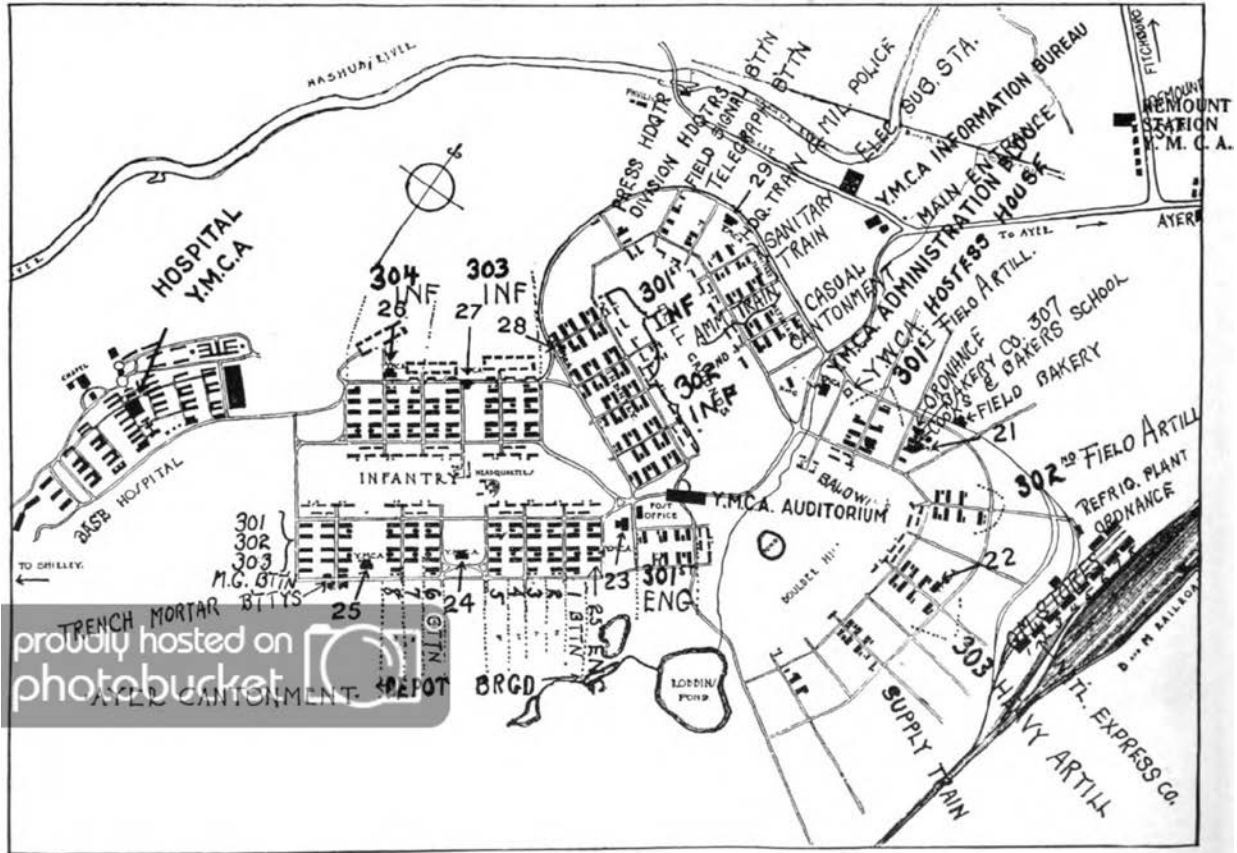
ANGELL, FRANK CASSELL  
 Res: Randolph. Born at Randolph.  
 Called into active service: Oct. 10, 1917. 46 7/12 yrs.  
 Org: Med. Corps to disch.  
 Prin. Sta: Boston, Mass; Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.; Cp. Dix, N. J.  
 Grades: 1st Lieut. Oct. 10, 1917; Capt. Apr. 18, 1918; Maj. Feb. 28, 1919.  
 Overseas: Apr. 9, 1918 to Mar. 13, 1919.  
 Disch: Mar. 17, 1919, Cp. Dix, N. J.

ANGELL, GEORGE TIMOTHY 4,194,802  
 Res: Hardwick. Born at Hardwick.  
 Ind: Sept. 3, 1918, Rutland. 25 6/12 yrs.  
 Org: 151st Dep. Brig., Cp. Devens to disch.  
 Grades: Cpl. Nov. 11, 1918.  
 Disch: Dec. 5, 1918, Cp. Devens.

ANGELO, JOSEPH  
 Res: Bethel. Born at Cassano Bari, Italy.  
 Ind: June 27, 1918, White River Jct. 26 4/12 yrs.  
 Disch.fr. the dr: July 1, 1918, by reason of physical disability.

### World War I

Named after Union General and Judge Charles Devens of the Civil War, Camp Devens was established in 1917 as the primary National Army cantonment (training center) for the Northeast Military Department. Built on a tract 7 miles long by 2 miles wide, Camp Devens covered 5000 acres of land along the Boston and Maine railway obtained from the contiguous communities of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Lancaster, Massachusetts.



Camp Devens, 1917

Construction started in early June, 1917, and was performed by a labor force of 5,000 workers which in just 10 weeks built a small city consisting of 1400 buildings, 20 miles of road, 400 miles of electric wiring and 60 miles of heating pipes in addition to water and sewer service. Due to the speed of its development, Camp Devens formally opened at the beginning of September, 1917. It was the first of 16 National Army cantonments to be completed in the country, processing and training more than 100,000 soldiers of the 76<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Divisions from 1917-1919.



The 76<sup>th</sup> Division consisted of troops drafted from throughout New England under the Selective Service Act of 1917. The first troops arrived by 9/5/1917, and rapidly increased to a wartime population of 40,000 men. The 76<sup>th</sup> Division consisted of the following units along with the 151<sup>st</sup> Depot Brigade of 13 battalions of unattached troops:

#### 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade

- 301<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment (*"Boston's Own"*)
- 301<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion
- 302<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment
- 302<sup>nd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion

#### 152<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade

- 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment
- 303<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion
- 304<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

#### 151<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade

- 301<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment {75mm}
- 301<sup>st</sup> Ammunition Train
- 302<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment {4.7"}
- 303<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment {155mm}
- 301<sup>st</sup> Trench Mortar Battery

#### Divisional Troops

- 301<sup>st</sup> Engineer Regiment
- 301<sup>st</sup> Engineers Train
- 301<sup>st</sup> Sanitary Train {Field Hospitals #301, #302, #303, #304}
- 301<sup>st</sup> Supply Train
- 301<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion
- 301<sup>st</sup> Field Signal Battalion
- 301<sup>st</sup> Headquarters Train and Military Police

The 76<sup>th</sup> Division departed for France at the beginning of July in 1918, at which time Camp Devens became home to the formation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division which was a combined force of Regular Army and National Army troops:

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade**

- 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment
- 73<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment
- 35<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion

#### **24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade**

- 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment
- 74<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment
- 36<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade**

- 34<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment
- 35<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment
- 36<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment
- 12<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery

#### **Divisional Troops**

- 212<sup>th</sup> Engineers
- 212<sup>th</sup> Field Signal Battalion
- 212<sup>th</sup> Supply Train
- 212<sup>th</sup> Sanitary Train
- 212<sup>th</sup> Headquarters Train
- 245<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital
- 245<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Company
- 246<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital
- 246<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Company
- 247<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital
- 247<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Company

The 12<sup>th</sup> Division did not serve overseas, but did its own battle with the Spanish Flu epidemic during the Fall of 1918 and sustained heavy casualties: Approximately 14,000 men were hospitalized with influenza and pneumonia. Of these, more than 2,278 died including five nurses and two doctors.



Camp Devens, 1918

Following the Armistice in November of 1918, Camp Devens became the separation center or “demobilization camp” for more than 150,000 troops returning from France including the 26<sup>th</sup> “Yankee” Division in April, 1919. Camp Devens was then placed on inactive status, serving as a summer training area for National Guard and Army Reserve troops over the next several years.

<https://worldwar1letters.wordpress.com/the-adventure-unfolds/watchful-waiting-1917/training-encampments/camp-devens-home-of-new-englands-own/>

Camp Devens: Home of New England’s Own

Letters Home from a Yankee Doughboy 1916-1919



/var/folders/1k/\_nlbynmd53vfnpbv7mppw6qr0000gn/T/com.apple.Preview/com.apple.Pre  
view.PasteboardItems/ANGELL, George T. - Dean Academy academic transcript .pdf



Springfield College Archives and Special CollectionsCliff Smith YMCA Postcard Collection ,  
Y.W.C.A. Hostess House, Camp Devens, Mass. -  
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:6w928v17x>

# DRAFTEES FROM BAY STATE REACH CAMP

Large Proportion Are of  
1918 Registration

## YEP, ARMY "SATURDAY NIGHT" IS DIFFERENT

CAMP DEVENS, Sept 3—Scores of rookies in the Depot Brigade had their first experience with Uncle Sam as a paymaster today. Lest timid citizens should fear the celebration which sometimes marks the occasion in town it might be well to state that payday in the Army is — well, different.

You see, when a man has subtracted his allotment, and his insurance and his Liberty Bond instalments and a few other things, he hasn't much left to celebrate with, even if Army discipline allowed it.

Many original excuses are offered by rookies who want to avoid making an allotment. One man asked his commander if he couldn't get out of making an allotment to his wife. He said she'd feel too lonely without at least herself to support.



Boston Globe

The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) - Tue, Sep 17, 1918 - Main Edition - Page 6

<https://bostonglobe.newspapers.com/image/430660554>

Downloaded on Jan 30, 2019

### Four Deaths in Hospital

Four deaths were reported from the Base Hospital today, two of them from pneumonia. They are Private Earle E. York, 44th Company, Depot Brigade, of Wells Beach, Me; Private William Hebenstruit, I Company, 74th Infantry, of Worcester; Private Mellen Adams, H Company, 42d Infantry, of Belgrade, Me, and Private George Sprague, I Company, 74th Infantry, of Harrington, Me.

It was made known today that there are more than 3000 cases of Spanish influenza at the Base Hospital now. Not all are serious, but the moment a man is found to have symptoms, he is immediately sent to the Hospital. It was stated at the division surgeon's office today that there is room at the Base Hospital for 1500 more cases.

Rumors have been circulated to the effect that the Base Hospital is quarantined. The Division Surgeon's office did not know anything about any such order today. Later it was learned that while the hospital is not strictly quarantined, guards are posted and civilians are not allowed to enter the hospital grounds unless visiting a relative who is critically ill.

Twelve more wards in the hospital were taken over today for use in dealing with influenza cases. They are the wards that were formerly used for reconstruction work. The personnel office was also moved from the hospital down to the old 301st Field Artillery Headquarters.

It is understood that the epidemic of grip has practically reached its zenith in this camp. Hundreds of the present patients are recovering very rapidly and the hospital will probably discharge about as many as are admitted each day. Gen McCain visited the hospital today to see the care the men are getting.

Boston Globe

The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) · Sun, Sep 22, 1918 · Page 1

https://bostonglobe.newspapers.com/image/430650736

Downloaded on Jan 30, 2019

# POSTMASTER MURRAY DIES OF PNEUMONIA

## Boston Loses Beloved Citizen and Nation a Faithful Official

### 57 DEATHS FROM GRIPPE IN BOSTON

Also 23 Pneumonia Victims  
Within 24 Hours

Public alarm having subsided to a very large degree, the danger of a further spread of the grippie epidemic has appreciably decreased, according to physicians through Eastern Massachusetts, who have been struggling with the situation night and day since Aug. 23, under great handicaps.

#### 20 Deaths at Camp Devens—No Quarantine

CAMP DEVENS, Sept. 21.—All rumors to the contrary, Camp Devens is not quarantined. All day long telegrams and telephone calls from distant points have been pouring in at headquarters asking if it was true that the camp was under quarantine. No men from the camp will be given passes until further notice and no men will be allowed in Ayer except on business.


Visitors, however, will be welcome to come to camp tomorrow and visit the men. An order was issued today, however, prohibiting civilians from entering the barracks if they come here tomorrow. This applies to both men and women. It might be added, too, that no quarantine of the camp is contemplated at present.

Twenty more deaths from pneumonia of the grippie were reported here today. In reality the epidemic is well in hand; although there are 6000 hospital cases, many of the men are scarcely ill at all.

From 10 p. m. Friday to 10 p. m. yesterday, in Boston proper, there were 39 deaths from influenza and 23 from pneumonia, an increase of 13 of influenza and 12 of pneumonia over the previous 24 hours. The total influenza deaths from Sept. 14 to Sept. 21, inclusive, has been 236, and from pneumonia 85. The daily death toll since Sept. 14 has been as follows:

	Influenza	Pneumonia
Sept. 14	10	12
Sept. 15	15	10
Sept. 16	23	15
Sept. 17	28	18
Sept. 18	30	19
Sept. 19	37	22
Sept. 20	44	21
Sept. 21	39	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>85</b>

A more general observance of the rules laid down for avoidance of the malady is reported in Greater Boston.



POSTMASTER WILLIAM F. MURRAY

Postmaster William F. Murray died at 11:40 last night at the City Hospital of pneumonia, the result of an attack of the grippie.

With him when he died were his wife, Fr. Morgan of the Immaculate Conception Church and Dr. Treason.

With the death of Postmaster William F. Murray passes one of the best-loved figures in the public life of Boston. Genial, attractive, with a winning personality that won the affection and respect of all who knew him, "Billy" Murray brought to every job he held, whether it was in the Governor's Council, the Boston Common Council, the State Legislature, the National House of Congress or the postmastership of Boston, an enthusiasm and cheerful interest that made him an effective, result-producing leader and executive.

#### Elected to Congress at 30

He was one of the youngest men ever elected to Congress and also one of the youngest postmasters Boston ever had. He was scarcely 30 years of age when he entered Congress and but turning 36 when he died. His views on National problems were eagerly sought by leaders in National affairs.

Since the outbreak of the war he has seconded President Wilson in every way in his power and it was largely due to his efforts that the Thrift Stamp campaign in this district was a success. He organized the employees of the Boston Postal District into an effective selling organization and in this way broke several records for the sale of stamps.

He was born in East Boston and attended the public schools and the Latin School, where he made a mark for himself in the school regimen. He served

Continued on the Sixth Page.

### TEN U. S. SAILORS DIE IN RESCUE ATTEMPT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21.—Ten enlisted men of the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Rescue* lost their lives Sept. 16 while attempting to rescue a

Copyright © 2019 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

POWERED BY  
Newspapers.com

Boston Globe

The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) - Wed, Sep 25, 1918 - Main Edition - Page 1

https://bostonglobe.newspapers.com/image/430650931

Downloaded on Jan 30, 2019

# INFLUENZA ADDS 109 TO DEATH LIST IN DAY

## Boston Schools Close—Urgent Appeal Made For Nurses

### Governor Calls Attention to Seriousness of Situation in Proclamation

#### GRIPPE FATAL TO 592 IN BOSTON IN 11 DAYS

Boston Health Department records show the following deaths from influenza and pneumonia since Sept 14:

	Influenza	Pneumonia	Total
Sept 14.....	9	12	21
Sept 15.....	15	9	24
Sept 16.....	23	5	28
Sept 17.....	28	13	41
Sept 18.....	30	13	43
Sept 19.....	32	10	42
Sept 20.....	44	10	54
Sept 21.....	57	23	70
Sept 22.....	44	19	63
Sept 23.....	74	13	87
Sept 24.....	81	28	109
Totals .....	437	155	592

#### MELLEN TELLS OF WIFE'S CONDUCT

#### Sensational Letters in His Separation Suit

**Special Dispatch to the Globe**  
**FITTSFIELD, Sept 24**—A stack of about 30 photographic copies of letters which Charles S. Mellen, ex-president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company, received from Mrs Margaret B. Brown of New York, wife of H. Douglas Brown, assistant manager of the Vanderbilt Hotel, respecting the alleged infatuation of his wife for Mr Brown and throwing light on their relations, were presented today as evidence in the Berkshire Probate Court. Judge Edward T. Slocum pre-





Boston Globe

The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) · Sat, Sep 28, 1918 · Main Edition · Page 7

https://bostonglobe.newspapers.com/image/430651090

Downloaded on Jan 30, 2019

**DEVENS DEATH LIST REACHES HIGH MARK**

Epidemic Costs Lives of 81 Soldiers

Fewer New Cases of Disease Are Admitted to Hospitals

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AID IN GRIPPE FIGHT**

CAMP DEVENS, Sept 27—The Knights of Columbus have turned their three buildings over to the Army.

The one adjoining the hospital is a day dormitory for 150 nurses on night duty at the hospital. That on Liberty road is a dormitory for women relatives of soldiers who are critically ill, with accommodations for 100. The main building is offered as a dormitory for men relatives.

The 11 secretaries are assisting the hospital staff, leaving but one secretary to a building.

By WILLIAM J. ROBINSON

CAMP DEVENS, Sept 27—The epidemic situation looked brighter today, with a total of only 26 new cases of influenza. New cases of pneumonia showed a great decrease. The toll of death was the heaviest yet reported, names of 81 soldiers being published. The New England deaths were divided as follows: Massachusetts, 27; Maine, 11; Vermont, 7; Connecticut, 7; New Hampshire, 6; Rhode Island, 2.

Donald E. Rowell, Tumbidge, Vt.; James H. Monte, Putnam, Conn.; Adam Florian, New Haven, Conn.; Louis Senfrel, Barre, Vt.; Alonso C. Mahan, E. Bethel, Vt.; Kenneth Webster, Vienna, Me.; Alfred J. Davis, Pittsfield; Chester Shaw, No. Tiverton, R. I.; Edwin E. Boston, So. Berwick, Me.; F. G. Austin, York Beach, Me.; Austin Lincoln, Damariscotta, Me.; Ira Churchill, Craftsbury, Vt.; Christopher Champlin, Wiscasset, R. I.

James P. Dunn, Taunton; Frank E. Nelson, Arlington; James D. Conley, Bethel, N. H.; Roy L. Verna, Somerville; Merrill Clough, Lisbon, N. H.; Edgar C. Anderson, Yarmouth, Me.; Walter M. Beale, Lawrence; Edward J. Johnson, Lowell; Raymond E. Neal, West Milton, Va.; Ralph Hiram Carpenter, Greenville, Me.; George E. Philbrook, Clinton; Walter E. Case, Readsboro, Vt.

Joseph Lutus, Buckland, Conn.; Leslie H. Morrill, Bridgewater, N. H.; Arthur Bergeron, Manchester, N. H.; Clary L. Crafts, Princeton, Me.; Edwin H. Mayberry, Yarmouth, Me.; Frank Seibak, South Boston; Herbert F. Hisle, South Boston; Roy S. Holland, Pennacook, N. H.; Carroll E. Fuller, Portland, Me.; Elston A. Day, Northbridge; Fred B. Forbes, East Hartford, Conn.; Hiram S. Newman, Waltham; Thomas R. Ellis, Bridgport, Conn.

Dennis J. Robbins, Timmouth, Vt.; Raymond L. Farrell, East Port Chester, Conn.; Alphonse J. Dame, Westbrook, Me.; Joseph Leland, Boston; Henry I. Davis, Milo, Me.; John M. Currier, North Prescott; William H. Hooper, Sebago Lake, Me.; Baumgartner Lemox, John F. Halsey, Manchester, N. H.; Arthur M. Colby, Webbs Mills, Me.; Elmer V. Sweeney, South Boston; George Ireland, Lincoln Center, Me.; Gustave T. Wirtzburger, Plymouth; Harry C. Caulkins, Sharon Valley, Conn.; Thomas A. Bashaw, Rutland, Vt.; and John F. Hylan, Leominster.



Boston Globe

The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) · Fri, Oct 4, 1918 · Main Edition · Page 10

<https://bostonglobe.newspapers.com/image/430941934>

Downloaded on Jan 30, 2019

## INFLUENZA DEATHS IN CAMPS INCREASE

WASHINGTON, Oct 3—Further spread of Spanish influenza in Army camps, with an increasing death rate, was indicated today in reports received at the offices of the Surgeon General of the Army.

New cases developing in the Army camps totaled 12,004, with reports lacking from Camps Sherman, O; Taylor, Ky, and Jackson, S C, where the disease has reached epidemic proportions.

This total was a decrease over that of yesterday, but 930 new cases of pneumonia were reported as against 876 the day before and deaths were 331 compared with 271 yesterday.

### 10 DEATHS IN MALDEN

MALDEN, Oct 3—Improvement of con-

Copyright © 2019 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

POWERED BY  
Newspapers™



<https://www.army.mil/article/34605/aileen-cole-stewart-black-pioneer-of-the-army-nursing-corps>

Stewart, left, poses with other Army nurses outside their quarters at Camp Sherman, Ohio. (Photo Credit: Courtesy Photo)

This female volunteer army drew its recruits primarily from middle- and upper-class white women with leisure time. Many African American women were rebuffed by ARC chapters when they sought to participate, and had to create their own alternatives for wartime voluntarism. Similarly, black women seeking to enroll as ARC nurses met with frustration. During the war, the ARC served as the official recruiter of nurses for the U.S. Armed Forces. The nursing division, which required every ARC nurse to have completed three years of training in an accredited nursing school, enrolled 24,000 trained nurses. Trained black nurses, however, were rejected for service abroad, and were only enrolled as reserve members of the home defense program.<sup>7.15,27,28</sup>

These reserve home defense nurses proved indispensable in the influenza pandemic. In December 1918, the ARC sent black nurses, along with other formerly disqualified nurses such as married women, to care for servicemen in influenza-ridden military camps. The leaders of the nursing division, white hospital-trained nurses who had served as the gatekeepers of ARC nursing and the profession, had little choice during the pandemic but to accept black nurses, as well as less-trained nurses, into their ranks: the dimensions of the crisis simply forced them to temporarily abandon their rigid and discriminatory professional standards.<sup>7.28,29</sup>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2862338/>

Each man here gets a ward with about 150 beds (mine has 168), and has an Asst. Chief to boss him, and you can imagine what the paper work alone is – fierce – and the Government demands all paper work be kept up in good shape. I have only four day nurses and five night nurses (female) a ward-master, and four orderlies. So you can see that we are busy. I write this in piecemeal fashion. It may be a long time before I can get another letter to you, but will try.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/influenza-letter/> - A Letter From Camp Devens - Camp Devens, Mass.

Surgical Ward No. 16

29 September 1918

~~~~~

The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War, known today as World War I (WWI), at somewhere between 20 and 40 million people. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four-years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351. Known as "Spanish Flu" or "La Grippe" the influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster.

<https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>

The Grim Reaper by Louis Raemaekers

In the fall of 1918 the Great War in Europe was winding down and peace was on the horizon. The Americans had joined in the fight, bringing the Allies closer to victory against the Germans. Deep within the trenches these men lived through some of the most brutal conditions of life, which it seemed could not be any worse. Then, in pockets across the globe, something erupted that seemed as benign as the common cold. The influenza of that season, however, was far more than a cold. In the two years that this scourge ravaged the earth, a fifth of the world's population was infected. The flu was most deadly for people ages 20 to 40. This pattern of morbidity was unusual for influenza which is usually a killer of the elderly and young children. It infected 28% of all Americans (Tice). An estimated 675,000 Americans died of influenza during the pandemic, ten times as many as in the world war. Of the U.S. soldiers who died in Europe, half of them fell to the influenza virus and not to the enemy (Deseret News). An estimated 43,000 servicemen mobilized for WWI died of influenza (Crosby). 1918 would go down as unforgettable year of suffering and death and yet of peace. As noted in the Journal of the American Medical Association final edition of 1918:

*"The 1918 has gone: a year momentous as the termination of the most cruel war in the annals of the human race; a year which marked, the end at least for a time, of man's destruction of man; unfortunately a year in which developed a most fatal infectious disease causing the death of hundreds of thousands of human beings. Medical science for four and one-half years devoted itself to putting men on the firing line and keeping them there. Now it must turn with its whole might to combating the greatest enemy of all-infectious disease," (12/28/1918).*

An Emergency Hospital for Influenza Patients

The effect of the influenza epidemic was so severe that the average life span in the US was depressed by 10 years. The influenza virus had a profound virulence, with a mortality rate at 2.5% compared to the previous influenza epidemics, which were less than 0.1%. The death rate for 15 to 34-year-olds of influenza and pneumonia were 20 times higher in 1918 than in previous years (Taubenberger). People were struck with illness on the street and died rapid deaths. One anecdote shared of 1918 was of four women playing bridge together late into the night. Overnight, three of the women died from influenza (Hoagg). Others told stories of people on their way to work suddenly developing the flu and dying within hours (Henig). One physician writes that patients with seemingly ordinary influenza would rapidly "develop the most viscous type of pneumonia that has ever been seen" and later when cyanosis appeared in the patients, "it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate," (Grist, 1979). Another physician recalls that the influenza patients "died struggling to clear their airways of a blood-tinged froth that sometimes gushed from their nose and mouth," (Starr, 1976). The physicians of the time were helpless against this powerful agent of influenza. In 1918 children would skip rope to the rhyme (Crawford):

*I had a little bird,  
Its name was Enza.  
I opened the window,  
And in-flu-enza.*

The influenza pandemic circled the globe. Most of humanity felt the effects of this strain of the influenza virus. It spread following the path of its human carriers, along trade routes and shipping lines. Outbreaks swept through North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Brazil and the South Pacific (Taubenberger). In India the mortality rate was extremely high at around 50 deaths from influenza per 1,000 people (Brown). The Great War, with its mass movements of men in armies and aboard ships, probably aided in its rapid diffusion and attack. The origins of the deadly flu disease were unknown but widely speculated upon. Some of the allies thought of the epidemic as a biological warfare tool of the Germans. Many thought it was a result of the trench warfare, the use of mustard gases and the generated "smoke and fumes" of the war. A national campaign began using the ready rhetoric of war to fight the new enemy of microscopic proportions. A study attempted to reason why the disease had been so devastating in certain

localized regions, looking at the climate, the weather and the racial composition of cities. They found humidity to be linked with more severe epidemics as it "fosters the dissemination of the bacteria," (Committee on Atmosphere and Man, 1923). Meanwhile the new sciences of the infectious agents and immunology were racing to come up with a vaccine or therapy to stop the epidemics.

<https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/> - The Influenza Pandemic of 1918

---

## INFLUENZA IN THE CAMPS

Braisted pinpointed the arrival of the epidemic in the United States to Tuesday, August 27, 1918, at Commonwealth Pier in Boston "...when three cases of influenza were committed to the sick list." The next day produced eight cases, and on August 29, 58 cases were reported, 15 so ill they were transferred to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Chelsea.<sup>2</sup> (p. 2427) Within 48 hours, three medical officers who had seen the patients also fell ill.<sup>2</sup> (p. 2473-4) Influenza reached civilians in Boston and on September 8, arrived "completely unheralded" at the Army's Camp Devens, outside of the city. Within 10 days, the base hospital and regimental infirmaries were overwhelmed with thousands of sick trainees.<sup>16,17</sup>

Gorgas sent his best epidemiologists to Camp Devens to investigate. His team included Victor C. Vaughan, dean of the University of Michigan School of Medicine and director of the Surgeon General's Office of Communicable Disease; William Henry Welch, famed pathologist from Johns Hopkins; and Rufus Cole, respiratory diseases expert from the Rockefeller Institute.<sup>18</sup> They found the medical situation "grave," and recommended 16 measures to control the outbreak, the most dramatic being a halt to transfers in or out of Devens until the epidemic passed. Camp Devens physicians performing autopsies described influenza pathology as unique, characterized by "the intense congestion and hemorrhage" of the lungs.<sup>19</sup> Cole and Welch observed one such autopsy, and Cole noted that Welch, "turned away from the blue, swollen lungs with wet, foamy, shapeless surfaces [and] became excited and nervous, saying, 'This must be some new kind of infection or plague.'" Added Cole, "It was not surprising that the rest of us were disturbed, but it shocked me to find that the situation, momentarily at least, was too much even for Dr. Welch."<sup>20</sup>

But as Vaughan and Welch investigated Camp Devens, the virus kept moving. Before any travel ban could be imposed, a contingent of replacement troops departed Devens for Camp Upton, Long Island, the Army's debarkation point for France, and took influenza with them. Medical officers at Upton said it arrived "abruptly" on September 13, 1918, with 38 hospital admissions, followed by 86 the next day, and 193 the next. Hospital admissions peaked on October 4 with 483, and within 40 days, Camp Upton sent 6,131 men to the hospital for influenza. Some developed pneumonia so quickly that physicians diagnosed it simply by observing the patient rather than listening to the lungs. "The patient looked sick and suggested a serious condition," they wrote, "his face was often cyanotic, sometimes ashy, sometimes just pinched looking. He expressed no pain or suffering. If his mind was clear he expressed a sense of euphoria, or of unnatural realization of his condition, which in particular marked the advanced stages of the disease."<sup>21</sup> Private James Downs entered the hospital on September 23 with a temperature of 104 degrees and died three days later. An Army pathologist clipped a piece of Downs' lungs and sent it to the Army Medical Museum as a specimen of the damage influenza was doing to young soldiers.<sup>22</sup> As they walked through Camp Upton's pneumonia wards of 900 patients, medical officers experienced "horror at the frightfulness of the sight of the hopelessly sick and dying and at the magnitude of the catastrophe that had stricken wholesale the young soldiers prepared to face another enemy but helpless before this insidious one." That sight, they said, "will haunt for life the minds of those who saw it."<sup>21</sup>

## The U.S. Military and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918–1919

Carol R. Byerly, PhD<sup>a</sup> - US National Library of Medicine - Public Health Report  
National Institutes of Health



□

“After the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, black nurses tried to enroll in the Red Cross, which was then the procurement agency for the Army Nurse Corps. The Red Cross rejected them, because they didn’t have the required membership in the American Nurses Association (ANA), which didn’t allow blacks to join at the time. A few black nurses eventually served in the First World War, but not because they were finally admitted into the Army Nurse Corps. The 1918 flu epidemic wiped out so many thousands of people that a handful of black nurses were called to assist.”

Read more: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/armys-first-black-nurses-had-tend-to-german-prisoners-war-180969069/#AJ4TRWyIvWLOdLa5.99>

Give the gift of Smithsonian magazine for only \$12! <http://bit.ly/1cGUiGv>

Follow us: @SmithsonianMag on Twitter