

CAMP

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES



Letter # 5

Camp MacArthur December 21, 1917

Dear Folks:

Received your letters all in a row. I believe the first one I got from Marcus. Tell him if he expects me to write to him, he should write so I can read and understand what he writes. I believe the next letter I got was dated the 15th, in which you say your are sending a money order. The next letter was a registered one with the money order in it. The next letter was dated the 15th and 16. Rose also had a little letter in it. The first one I said was dated the 15th was the one with the money order. The other I received was dated the 17th. Last night which was Thursday, I received the little package you sent and I thank you very much for it. First of all I hope you are all well by this time as for myself I must say I am feel-ing fine. You asked about the "grub". Well when I left home I weighed about 120 or 125 lbs. Last night I weighed myself. Can you guess how much I weigh? Well I suppose you couldn't even come close. I weighed just 140 lbs. That's must mean I get good grub and plenty of it. Now I am going to answer your questions of the letter Dated the 15th...I told you before that I had some trip to Camp Mac Arthur. I forgot to mention that for hundreds of miles we saw nothing but cotton fields and also plenty of cactus. On almost every tree around here is growing mistletoe. I was going to get some and send it home but I don't think it will keep that long. You asked what branch of service is the Headquarters Co. Well the Headquarters Co., originally consisted of the Band and Mounted Orderlies from Madison. Sometime ago everything was changed around, but the Company still contains the band and Orderlies. In addition to these was added Infantrymen. Headquarters is the choice company of the Regiment. Just this last week the Infantrymen part of the Company were divided into different sections. Some of the sections are Signal Platoon, Bombers & Sappers Motorcycles and bicycles and also some Infantrymen. I am in the Signal Platoon. This is considered the best section of all. A good deal of our time is spent going to school. We go to Signal and Electrical Schools. We also do quite a bit of drilling and marching. Our Signal work consists of Semaphore and Wig-Wag or Dot and Dash Codes. After we pass examinations in the Semaphore and Wig-Wag we are taught to send the Wig-Wag over Buzzers or Telegraphy. I can send the Semaphore pretty fast now. The rate required is thirty-five letters a minute and in the last examination I took I made forty-eight a minute. Semaphore Signaling is done with two flags. I am just learning the Wig-Wag. We have another examination Monday and I hope to pass.

A /M/E/R/R/Y/ C/H/R/I/S/T/M/A/S/



WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP



Letter #5 Page 2

The above is the Wig-Wag in writing. By the way, I'm sending with flags the Wig-Wag is only sent with one flag. Wallie and Jake are also in the Signal Platoon. Jake is in my class. It is kind of hard for Wallie to get, but he is getting it alright. Only a little slow. Every morning we go out on the field and practice Signaling for two hours. Since I have been here I also have had gas instructions. I don't remember whether I told you about them, anyway I will write about it now. The first lesson we had was about how to breathe and put on a Gas Mask. The second lesson, which I believe is the last, we go through houses filled with different sorts of gas. Three kinds to be "specific." Chlorine or weeping gas, this gas although not exactly fatal makes the tears roll down your face, like a cloud-burst. Asphyxiating gas which kills. The Asphyxiating, we went though was not very strong, but strong enough to let you know it was there, even with the gas masks on. The last gas we went through was called paralizing gas, but nobody got paralyzed. I have also gone on the range since I have been here. I have gone two times already. The first time I went we shot at targets. I got 61 out of a possible 100 score. I was told this was very good considering it was my first time on the range. The kick of the shotgun has nothing on the kick of an army rifle. I was nervous as "hell" the first time hundreds of guns shooting off, right in a row. I was afraid to pull the trigger as first for fear it would give me a "kop in the kisges". But I overcame that easily as was shown but the score I got. I might as well mention that the first shot I ever fired with an army rifle was a bull's "orgala". This was at a distance of 100 yards.

We also shoot at two and three hundred yards, I went to the range again today. We shot as ---. From the hundred yard trench they look to be about six inches high and you can imagine how they look from three hundred yard trench. The score is counted either a hit or a miss. A hit counts five and a miss nothing. I guess I got seven or eight hits. The reason for this poor shooting was that I used a different gun each time I shot. My gun is on the bun, also today it was rapid firing. Ten seconds a shot is what we were allowed. Ask anybody that knows about shooting if we had any time to wast in training. So much for the shooting. Last night we got a bunch of drafted men from Camp Grant. Tough nuts too but we the "volunteers" will take the toughness out of them pretty darn soon. The fellows are against the Drafted men pretty strong here. Can you blame them? The "slackers" we call them get all the credit from the people and are called the "Select Men". Now to answer a few more questions. You asked if I have a pal. No. You can report to the Club if you wish. While I am taking on this subject I might as well let you know that I received a Christmas package from a Mr. and Mrs. Hohlfeld on Breese Terrace. Do you



WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP



Letter #5 Page 3

know them? I don't. I guess I better write them a letter and thank them for it. I suppose you would like to know what was in the package. Well the best of all was a part silk army handkerchief. I also got some cookies, candy, raisins and gum. You advise me to take \$5000 worth of Insurance. Well I will get some blanks and fill them out. I haven't asked for the allotment yet, but I will do so tomorrow or Monday. In your letter where you tell me to make an allotment you said "Uncle Sam has plenty of gold." If it wasn't for that line I would have shown the letter and asked for an allotment but like this I will have to go in without the letter. You say you didn't get any mail from me for 13 days. I don't see why. Since I left home I have sent a dozen letters and postal-cards. Didn't you get a letter from me about the 7th telling you I was leaving Jefferson Brks for Waco the next day. Also didn't you get a couple of letters and a postal around the thirtheenth and fourteenth. Also I don't see why ma is worrying about me. I don't believe I could gain 15 lbs in a month if I were home. Do you? I believe I am better off where I am. Sorry your business is on the bum and hope it is better by this time. What kind of band work is Leo doing? Glad you got acquainted with Jake's parents. You better tell his mother to stay where she is for a couple of weeks.

We were supposed to leave to-morrow but I am sure we will still be here after Christmas New Years. This is all I know and I guess all any-body knows about when we leave. I received the 5 dollars and it is almost all gone. I have enough for pictures. Don't send anymore money as I can do just as well with out it. If I haven't any money to spend I stay home and "shluf". I and Wallie went to Waco Thursday and by ten o'clock I could hardly see. I was so sleepy. Last night I went to Little Waco and went Roller Skating. After I was through roller skating I came over to the K.C. and started this letter. Tomorrow I will ask for a pass and go to Waco and have my picture taken. You say I have \$2 76/100 coming from the bank. Take it out and pay up some quarters on my insurance. If I get time after I finished this this letter I will write Uncle a letter. It is now 8:20 and I have been sitting on my "tookas" since 6:30 writing this letter and still I am not through. I believe I will take your advise and try to write everyday, so I won't have to spend so much time writing one letter. You ask what kind of Uniform I have now. The same one I got at Jefferson brks. I have another coming I think because I was measured up for a uniform and overcoat. While I mention overcoats I might as well say that the cold spell has left us and we are running around in our shirt-sleeves and "switzing". It was pretty warm this last week. From what you write I think the old town of Madison must be dead. How about it? I



CAMP

WAR ACTIVITIES



Letter #5 Page 4

think we got the life of Madison here in Camp. I am sending a picture of a part of the life that is here. Do you remember him. I see him everyday. He still has a crooked "morale". Instead of hollering he sings on the Camp Mac Arthur Bugle and the Waco Morning News. I don't what else to write. Do you? Tomorrow we have a clothing inspection and most of my clothes are dirty. I am still in Bing Crapsers Tent and Marshall Depeu is home and is a Corpo-ral now. Some day if I get time I am going to write to some of the boys that asked me to write to them. I guess I will have to write Bob Wise a letter also. So far I haven't written to the barracks about the letters and packages yet, but I will do so tomorrow. This is all I have to say for this time, so I must close with love and kisses and best regards to all.

From your loving son and brother Max

P.S. For Rose and Markus:

Dear Marcus and Rose I thank you very much for your letters and I will answer them when I get more time. When I was in Waco I forgot to get some postal cards but I will do so before long. Dear Rose, I could get an Armadillo shell basket but they cost too much.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP Mac arthur

Dec. 21

Sean Folks: row. Spelieve the first one I got was from Marcus Lefthin if the 14 perts one to wrote to him, by spould write The wortes of feligie the next letter wh was plated the 15th, in which, you, you are sending a money orde 1.7 litter was a regressived one witch the money pray in it. The next letter was gated in et. The first one & said was doing the 13th was the one with the money order. I is other I received was clasted the might which was Thursday, I re cured be you sent ling Jo thank little package when you are all wel on a Steft lome I weight night out 129 on 125 lbs. In went to Waco, and while the weighen myself, Can you que Well Hauppoe

you couldn't even come close. I weight Just 140 lbs. That's must mean got good grut and plenty of it. how I have gloring to answer your question of the little pater the 1stel. to they you before that I had some trip to Camp Mu arthur. I fight to mention that the funded of the plant of caching but atten hills and also plenty of cachins in almost every the around here is graning mistle toe was giving to get som and send it home that borg. Jow asked what there of service is the for all think of service is the feadquarters Co. Well the Readquarters to, orginally consisted of the Bahd and Sometime ago werything was changed around, lift the Combany still In addition to these was added afantrymen Head functions as that this last week the Regiment. next of the company were districted into different sections. Some of the sections Sappens Motory des and huy cles and also some Antentry menzil an in the lignal Platophi This is considered the test pection of all agood deal of our time is spent and Exchool We go to lignal and electrical liphopolo. We also do quit a lit farilling and

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES Der. 22, 191 7 3 marching Our lignal though consists marchina and Dash Codes after we examinations in the Semaphone + in - way the wig legnat ments. The Wig motion-- Waa the morse. vame as your legraphi m 20 can send the semaphie pre now. The rate required is this letter a month and in t examination made d eight a minute Semos hore done with M the Ge . - Illian arning anhi ab NTA + LA A Way Gran ( to alig but he is

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES the slow. Every morning me go t on the field and pray practice line 9 have been shell I also have had gos instructions. I don't remember what I told you about them, any en I write about it no lesson we had was about how the put r Maa a second the Va. ed with dep le ponees othree chorine speci in and the ie totars that down yours ino la cloud-burst, append fill. The hall my atris , we went way not very strong wat Atron was there. Anon At with the bas masks m. gho we went through bras cl palizing gas, but produ a range since have been there. I have gove those already. The first time I. went we shot at tangets, I got 61 out of a possible

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES 100 score. I was told this was very and considering it was my first has nothing and the n army rifle. I was norther as "hell " Athe first thine hundreds of guns shoting Higger as first for But wer came that easily of was shone but the score. 扒、 5 9 as well mention that the first sho I ever fried with an army re was a bull's orgala. This wa il was a distance of 100 yards. We also a at two and three thundred yards, s went to the range agen to torblay We shot as dumbring. Thom the hund yard trench they book to be about sty micho high and you can imagine how they look from the these hundred whand trench. The score is condited within a hit or a miss hit counts five and a miss nothing I guess I get seren a night high I'v reason for this poor shotily was that

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES CAMP I used a different gun each time I shot " mylgun if on the puper, also to day it was napid fing. In seconds a shot is what we were allowed with a shot is what we were allowed with you had any time to wast in history. Jue had any time to wast in history. It much for the shooting Zout night wel got a bunch of drafting men firm tamp grant, thus h muts too" but ne the "bolunteers" furil take the trughness out of them pretty darger soon su ellows are against the Drafted men pretty strong thre can you blance them? The "Slackyro" we call them get all pretet from the people and are called the select min. Non to answer a en mon questions. You asked if Afre can report to Club of you wish. While I am talking on this subject I might as well let you know that I received a Chartons package from a Max Map. Hohlfeld Breeze Senage to you prove them? I don't I guers I tetter white them a letter and thank them for it suppose you would the to know what was in the pochage ? J don't

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES 7 Nell the best of all was a part silk army bankerchief & also got some cookies candy r pising and gun Insurgence, well I will get some blanks out, I barent a them the allotment yet, but 201 morrow on Mahday E my where you tell mel you said "Uncle Sam has plinty shown the letter and asked In an ne for 13 days. Id letter . . high firm me the home to have sent by time I lift home to have sent adoren letter time patal-cards. Didn't www.get a letter from me about the 7 th telfing you I was having fifferson Brhi telfing you I was having fifferson Brhi to Wack the next day I allost didn't you was and a potel crowd t mail from me. et a couple of letters and a postal around the see why ma is woringing about me. I don't believe I could gain 1/5ths in a month if I were browne. Do you? I believe I am better off where I am. Ing your truniers

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES CAMP is on the burn and hope it is better bu this time What hand of bard work is Let doing? Blad you got acquainted with hes parents. you better tell his mother to stuly where she is for a couple of weeks make suppresed to leave Is- Baronow In the we will still be he still be here know and I guess all anybody turns about when we leave I received the 15 dollars and it is almost all gone. I have enough In pictures. Don't sind going more money as I can do just as will with out hope and shill and tallie went to Waco Thursday and by ten o' clock I could bandly see, I was so sleep Last night I shent to Little Warp in west Holler skating. after I was through started this Mitter. To morrow to the I will ask on a pass and go to Waco and have my icture taken. If m say I have \$2 73 coving from the bank. Take it out and a some granters on my messame time lafter I finial

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES this letter I will write Uncle a letter It is now 8:20 and I have been sitting letter land still I am not their ah. telieve I will take your advise and ty to write everyday to I write have You ask what hind of Uniform I have bow yhe same one of got at Johnon Brko. I have another whing I think because I was measured up for a uniform and over coald. While I mention mercents I might as well hay that the cold shell this left us and we are running around in the shirt-sleves and switzing I ims pretty warm this last week them what you write I think the old town of Maghin must be dougd. How about hit? I think we got the life of Ma desin here in Camp. I am andring a picture of a part of the life block is here. Don you remember him. Alsee hit wend ay He still have a creshy die moalt "Instead" of hollering he sings. Home more arthur Bugle and he Wars Morning News. I don't what else

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WAR ACTIVITIES 10 to write. Do you ? Tomorrow we have a clothing inspection and most of my Capsers texts and Marshall Deper is home and is a Coppen now. Tome day if I get time I am going to write the pome of the boy' that asked me to write bother. I the boy' that asked me to write Both Utice a attend also to for I baren't writen to the Barrachs about the letters and packages yet but I will do as tomorrow this is all I have to say for this have so I must close with all From your loving son & brother P. J. To Rose + Markus: Dear Marcus & Rose I thank you very much for your letters and I will answer them when I get more time When I was in wars I fright to got some postal cards, but I will do not before forgelland here I could get an altimadilla Josket but they cost too much ugelft" mas