

c/o Captain Veblen,
Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Maryland
[ca. July, 1918]

Dear Cona:

Here O. K., in barracks,
and computing trajectories. We have
to integrate unintegrable differential
equations by breaking them up into small
pieces according to Δt , t being the time.
We ~~the~~ have equations for figuring the
increments of the slope, altitude, ~~and~~ range,
and velocity of a projectile during a
given Δt in terms of Δt , their previous
values, and their previous increments.

Veblen and Loomis, my immediate
superior, are pleasant men with whom to
work. The work is routine, but interesting.

now, at any rate. I am gaining accuracy
& speed, though slowly.

I room in barracks, with Bray,
a Tufts classmate. No expense

Write soon.

Robert.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO "THE COMMANDING OFFICER."

WAR DEPARTMENT
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
P. O. ABERDEEN, MD.

IN REPLYING REFER TO No.

July 5, 1918.

Mr. Norbert Wiener,
29 Sparks Street,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Wiener:--Your application for war work has been referred to me. We can offer you a position as a computer at a salary of \$1200 per year with 30 % for overtime. We are on a 10 hour basis, so that you may consider the salary to be about \$1560.

If you prefer to be in uniform it is possible that this can be arranged in case you find ^{you like} that/the kind of work we are doing.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Veblen

{O. VEBLEN}
Captain Ord. R. & C.



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



Oct. 14, '18

Dear Ma:

Please keep well, & don't let anyone get the influenza. Let me know at once if anyone gets sick. Don't delay — have the doctor at once. Don't overwork or overworry, and don't let anyone else.

I am all right here, & will do not worry about me in the least. Of course, there is some 'flu' in camp, but I believe the peak of the epidemic is past, and I have not had even a touch.

Work is interesting. Our office contains some of the best mathematicians in the country — Bliss, Blichfeld, Grinnell, Roever, Bennett, Hasbans Mitchell — and to have known them will help me in getting a job.

Thanks awfully for the cats. They were fine. I shared them with some of

the other fellows. They have a fine bunch in our office.

The war news certainly looks interesting. I imagine I shall be back to teaching in another year. Get Gaby to dig out a place for me at Harvard.

Love to all,

Herbert.

P. S. Be particularly careful of Constance & Fritz in regard to the Influenza. Constance is not as vigorous this year as I should like to see her, and I am worried in regard to Fritz's ability to fight off the disease. Above all take care of yourself. Rather let the housekeeping go to rack and ruin than do anything which will endanger your health. Remember, this is not an ordinary slight epidemic, but a full-sized pestilence. Keep the house properly heated, and sacrifice everything, anything, to our health, especially your own.

July 25, 1918,
Aberdeen Proving Gd.
Md.

Dear ma:

Pardon my delay in writing
but the heat and the fullness of a
day of camp life have both tended
to increase my usual laziness. I
have received ^{the} ~~my~~ letters from
the Personnel Department which
you sent me, and am answering them
at once. My office work is making
good headway. I have invented
a new scheme for interpolating
between ~~curves~~ ^{trajectories} which, though it
has turned out to be very similar

some enlisted as privates.

Well, good bye, & love
to all!

Robert

to that devised by Littlewood of
Cambridge — under whom I studied
— is more convenient than the
original Littlewood method and
more precise than the modified Littlewood
method in use here. It has been
adopted for practical work.

I hear a lot from Cunta.
She seems to be getting on
well.

We have a very various
crowd in camp. Several college
professors of standing are officers
or chief computers. Many of our
office force are college instructors.

C/o Captain Tabor,
Aberdeen Proving Ground,
July 14, '18.

Dear ma:

Here O.K. & computing trajectories for ~~A.A.~~ ^{Aircraft} guns. My trunk has not come yet, but it is in camp somewhere. My work is pleasant & interesting. Please send me some flannel shirts & khaki trousers - one can't keep good clothes here. Please write soon, & to address at head of letter.

I like camp life, & am getting on O.K. Bray is a nice fellow.

I can get chow at the post exchange.

Your loving son,
Robert.

although most of the men are under
a skin-deep - camouflage of government
service. In the inelegant terminology
of Aberdeen, Md., Pitt of Washington &
Port Pfeiffer, Aviation Corps, are three
bellyachers.

The Washington job is a
good one, and Constance is certain
of getting it if she wants it. I agree
strongly with her, however, as to the
unreliability of Mr. Pitt. Aberdeen, however,
is only 75 miles from Washington.

With love,

Norbert

I love you with all the
sugar of my heart
—

definitely needs a change occasionally.
That is one reason why it would
be good for me to be in
Washington. We would react favorably
on each other.

Scene 2

I am here, well, & O.K. The rest
is great for me, & I think for
Constance. It sets me up for work
again.

Constance is O.K., and has
learned very well to take care of herself.
Gaby is still very much in evidence.
We went out last night for a walk
with the Math crowd. I found no cause
to revise my impressions of last Christmas,



40 Major Vetter
ORDNANCE DETACHMENT
ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.
Aberdeen

August 18, '18

Dear ma:

Excuse my remissness in the matter of writing, but I have had a fairly stiff week. My induction as a private has not come through yet. When it does, I stand a good chance of getting into the Ordnance school here, and trying for a commission.

think ill of a man who will
not serve his country under
any condition

I lease write to me
occasionally.

With love,
Norbert

I am well, and get
enough to eat, but — I am
longing for the feed I shall
have when I first return home
I go to New York in two
weeks to see Cohta. As to
Green, I know for a fact
that he has been offered
a job here at at least
\$1560 a year, and probably at
\$2340 a year, and that he has
refused it. I am beginning to



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



September 6, '18.

Dear dad:

My induction may come any day now. I shall try for the officers' school, for which I stand a chance, notwithstanding my eyesight. I had a great time in New York. Constance is O. K. She has learned very well how to take care of herself. Our long planned trip abroad after the war is easily possible.

Constance has been struck just as I have, with the perverse pacifism of some of the N. Y. math. crowd. They have mostly gone into U. S. service — where they are doing everything they can to lower its morale. I would have infinitely more respect for them if they did not add to their treason towards their country a second treason to their own principles. But, after all, would you expect a being with insufficient

manliness to be willing to fight show
courage enough to go to jail or be hanged?

Well, goodbye,
Robert.

reputation

Let me know how Harvard
is. Too bad about poor

Böcher, isn't it

With love,

Harbert

Sept. 19, '18.

Dear dad:

I may be inducted
any day. Whether I get leave or
not depends on whether I get into
the officers' school: if I make the
school I don't get leave. It is
about 50-50 as it stands. I should
consider myself a pretty cheap kind
of a swine if I were willing to
be an officer but unwilling to
be a soldier.

As you know, I have a
special talent for making blunders.

and at any rate I am
far from useless here, but I
think that my selection of highly
abstract subjects such as philosophy
& mathematics as specialties is
fortunate in that a fair grasp of
the whole of a problem there
compensates for a myriad sins
of detail. I have always been
long on universals & short on
particulars, more concerned with the
easily grasped outlines of a subject
than its painstaking technique. The fact
is that I can make a living after a fashion
in a good many fields of work, but that
there are very few in which I
have any chance of making a

We all do here, and none of
mine have had any fatal effect,
as everything is checked, but my
damnable carelessness is hard
to overcome. If I ever do become a
horrid example of anything, it
will be of letting things slide.
It is not mere laziness - I am
probably one of the hardest working
men in my office - but it is
very hard for me to so divide my
labors that every little item on
which a lot depends shall
have its due measure of care.
I shall try to remedy it.



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



Room 5, Clerk's Barracks 105,
Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Aberdeen, Md.

Dear Ma:

I'm on the job O. K. No expense
for rooms. I'm with Bray, a Tufts classmate
Went to the theatre last night with Constance
& Green. Had great old time. Constance
will explain details. Constance has
^{wonderfully} good lodgings & a nice job, but
she may be spending more for rooms
than she can quite afford - \$6 per week
She can take care of herself very well,
and will learn to do even better.
I am too tired to write more.

With love
Robert.



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

"WITH THE COLORS"



c/o Major T. E. Blevins,
A. P. G. Md.
Sept. 14, 18,

Dear Ma:

I have been lazy in writing to you, but shall reform. Do not worry about Cona — she has grit enough to take care of herself. I think she will stick to the job, and that she ought to. Cona is right — there is little point in graduate work this year. The math department will be reduced to the vanishing point, and the few remaining men will have their entire energies consumed by war work and elementary teaching. Con is simply going through the stage I underwent at Cambridge, and it is a good thing for her. She gets rather tired, but I do not think she is anywhere near the danger point. It is mostly due to the subway, so that Washington might be an improvement.

except for that, the experience is in every way of the greatest value for her, and is of wonderful effect in giving her self-reliance and an ability to take care of herself. Naturally, she gets blue occasionally - she would not be a V. reiner if she didn't. I do not think, however, that there is cause for a moment's worry.

I shall be inducted in about a week as a private, at \$30 per month. I shall very likely get into the officers' school, in which case I may land a second lieutenantcy. Nothing, however, is certain in this respect. On my induction I shall wire to Cambridge the fact and also how much leave I shall be able to secure to come up and see you. I shall probably get five days or thereabouts. If I do I shall want to spend at least one day in N. Y. with Cora, to cheer her up.

Goodbye, & love.

Robert.

P.S. Get a service flag when I telegraph.



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



Sept. 24, '18.

Dear ma:

By the time this letter reaches you, Constance will probably be with you. Her own judgment as to whether she ought or ought not to continue in her job is mature enough to assure that she has done the right thing. In any case, the experience has been a valuable thing for her.

A few days ago, as I wrote, I was troubled by minor carelessnesses - not lazinesses - in my work. Just at present it is running much more smoothly, and moreover I have observed that the work of others is by no means free of blemishes. All in all, the job and I are getting on together infinitely better than I would have predicted in advance.

I am having a good time outside of work Saturday, some of the office fellows got me to come along and join in the practice of a schub football team they are forming to play the officers. My poor sight without my glasses

renders me rather useless, of course,
as does my clumsiness, but I have
a good healthy amount of weight and
muscle, so that they may be able to
put me in. Evenings and Sundays I
devote to the elaboration of a math. paper
which I have had on ice for a
year and a half. In this a bright
young kid named Franklin is helping
me. Green has met him, and can
tell you about him. He has a good
upper story for a boy of 19 — knows
more math than I knew at that age.

I shall answer Muscio soon. I
think he misinterpreted my statement
of my opinions.

I don't know when I shall be
in the army. It may come any day,
but red tape is red tape.

Love to all

Norbert.

P.S. (not for Constance to read). What
do you think about the nearness of
Cort's return to that of G. M. G.?

8 4x5 film negative

3 Brown 20



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



Oct. 1, 18.

Dear Constance:

If you want a job at \$1200 per year + 30% overtime for a ten hour day — i.e. \$1560 — you can get it here now or later if you want to take it. They are looking for college trained girls to operate the chronographs with which they measure the velocities of projectiles. It is an indoor ^{laboratory} job in a steam heated building — physics but not much math. There is an excellent chance of rising to chief operator, at \$1500 — 1800 base pay — \$2000 — 2400 actual pay. You can take rooms with me at Havre de Grace, or later, when they are built, go into the concrete barracks for women at Aberdeen. This is a definite offer of a job, made by Captain Lemon. They would



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



start you at more than the average beginner gets. You would be under Capt. Lemmon, who seems very pleasant, and ~~and~~ Lt. Stiglitz, with whom I have worked on the range, and who is a nice fellow. The disadvantages of the job are obvious and I told Capt. Lemmon you would probably not accept. This is rather a roughneck joint and the hours are long. If we lived in Harve de Grace, we would have a 10 minute ride to and from Aberdeen in the morning via the Pennsy, and another 10 minute ride by the government R. R. This is nowhere near so crowded or unpleasant as the N. Y. subway - in fact we used to take the ride fairly often simply for a change. Rooms are by no means impossible to get at Harve-de-Grace, and it is a home-like little town. As to your girl fellow-workers, I can say



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



nothing, but there are plenty of boys in the office who are quite presentable. Do you remember Shook at Harvard? He is a corporal here, and in the officers' school.

I can neither advise you to accept nor to reject this offer. I doubt if the ten hours would be anywhere nearly as bad as they seem because once when your gun was actually firing velocity rounds would you be busy. The work would not give you nearly as much scope for your mathematical abilities as that at Cambridge or at Washington. On the other hand, it would be government work of the most directly valuable sort. It would throw you into contact with a group comprising some of the ablest mathematicians of the country. It would be a most interesting experience. Captain Lemon has said that he is perfectly willing that you should try it for a couple of weeks, and then keep it or



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



drop it. He also would be obliged
if you could put other girls of
the right sort wise to the job.
Your loving brother,
Norbert.

French & Calculus.



U. S. ARMY
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD.

Oct. 6, '18.

Dear dad:

I am well & happy:

There is some 'flu' in camp,
but much less than at most camps.

I have just recovered from a
slight cold, and am feeling
fit for anything.

My induction is very
slow in making its appearance.
I am becoming much more accurate

home, whereof I partook. Gill
is deeply enamoured of
a girl doing grad. work in
math at Columbia, cuius rei
causa he gets kidded till
his ears turn pink.

The war news is
certainly great, except for
the 'flu', the slowness of the
liberty loan, and the munition
plant explosion. As to the
loan, I have taken out \$100.

Your loving son
Norbert

P.S. How do you like teaching

in-computation than I was at the
beginning. I think knocking up
against all sorts of people
is doing me good. We have all
sorts in our office — one soldier
just made corporal was
wayup in the Mass. actuarial dept.,
another was a big metallurgical
engineer, and so on.

Next room but one to
mine are two kids, Franklin
& Gill, who know their math
well. Franklin just had
his twentieth birthday, which he
celebrated with edibles from



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



Oct 10, 18

Dear Cona:

I'm O.K., although I have just got over a slight spell of depression. Thank ma awfully for sending the goodies. As to your coming here, you now know all that is essential about the situation, and I rely on your judgement.

What it be great if the war ends — satisfactorily — before the beginning of another academic year! The lean years are near their end, and have served to whet our appetite for the fat. But these may not come until Germany is crushed — igni atque ense, as the Latin books put it. Germany must give up at once, or pay mile by mile, life by life, stone by stone, for the ruin she has done.

Let me know how father gets on with his French and Mathematics.



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



Also ~~to~~ how you get along with
Gaby.

Love
Robert



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



Oct 19, '18.

Dear Lenta:

My work is coming on O.K. but when the war ends, won't I be glad to come home again. Of course, I am coming home for a few days around Thanksgiving, with or without pay, but I mean for good. By the way, when the war ends, I shall be looking for a university job. I want to know if Gabe can help me find one at the old joint.

The chow Ma sent me disappeared fast — with plenty of outside assistance. Whatever stomachaches it may have contained were so diluted by being distributed among the other members of my barrack that nobody noticed them.

There is some gang of math sharks here — it makes me feel like a damn fool. I have some interesting questions about differential geometry to ask Gaby when I see

him next.

The war news is certainly obvious. ~~The~~ Kaiserliche Schweinhund is certainly getting it. By the way, when the University of Prague is reopened under Masaryk's government, I wonder what chance father will have for an exchange professorship?

I like a fair amount, play bridge in the evening, and have a good time.

Last Sunday I went down to see a 14 in naval gun they have here on a railway mount. She shoots a shell weighing the better part of a ton thirty odd miles. They have a battery of these big babies in France. When they begin to have a little chat with the fortifications of Metz or Coblenz, I think they will make their meaning quite clear.

Some babies. When they fire this one, they use Baltimore Light for an observation tower.

Love,
Norbat



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



Fort Slocum, N. Y.,
Nov. 1, '18.

Dear Ma:

I've had an eventful time of it. Yesterday I went down to Baltimore & up again to Aberdeen, then to the P. G., where I found I had to report to the local board at Bel Air, 12 miles out of Aberdeen. Rode back to A. & started hoping it got left in auto most of way. The board at B. A. told me I was to report to Fort Slocum so I took a 'bus back to Aberdeen & a train (transportation ^{board} paid) to New York. Slept at Stage Women's War Relief soldier's clubhouse. Came into camp this morning, and have been through the personnel office, but have not had my physical exam yet. More later.

With love
Robert.

P.S. I go back to Aberdeen soon



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP Fort Slocum

Nov 3 1918

Dear ma:

I am now a rookie in the 21st Recruit Company — it may be days or weeks before I get out. I met Wolfson today — he is so forlorn, poor fellow! I am flourishing, though I did keel over yesterday under my first antityphoid treatment. No pain — just a little faint, such as I had before at Plattsburgh. I passed my physical exam. O. K., and am in class C — for home service. I am mailing my
its-home.

Love,
Norbert.



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



Range Firing Section
Aberdeen Proving Gd.
Maryland.
Nov. 9

Dear ma:

I hope nothing serious comes of Cont's flu. I take the best care of her - she deserves it. Dunham has been here - before I came - and has let some of my friends know his high esteem for her.

I came here last night. I am with the ballistic detail, and in the same office as before - a fine crowd after the heterogeneous riff-raff of Fort Slocum. Not that there are not many first rate individuals at the latter place but they are ~~overwhelmed~~ ^{lost} by lost in a crowd which has nothing to hold it together. It contains a large sprinkling of a peculiarly New York type - the flat-out intellectual parker of the ghetto. This person combines a smattering of economic and sociological information with a

dogmatism inferable to doubt and an aggressive
arrogance of demeanor. He is usually a socialist
of Bolshevik tendencies, and in the period
immediately following the end of the war, within
the limited area of New York City, there
is a considerable danger that he may engage in
the pleasant pastime of revolution and
massacre. By this he will incur the enmity of
the common or bourgeois American, who
is more accustomed to judge political parties
by the acts of their adherents than the
theoretical beauties of their dogmatism.
The dogmatist in question will terminate ~~his~~^{the}
mundane existence at the end of a rope.

The gang at the office was really
glad to see me back, and I am glad to
be with them. I shall not try for a
commission as with the war so near an
end it will simply keep me in the service
for a needlessly long time.

I was in Philly Philadelphia en route
yesterday, and saw the great celebration at
the false news of the armistice. It was
wonderful. Never have I seen, and never
do I hope to see, such signs of
universal rejoicing.

Love

Robert.



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



Nov 16, 18

Dear Cona:

That was an interesting letter which you and His Verdice concocted. I am busy with my military work here, and I don't expect to be out in less than from four to six months. That is fair enough, but if they keep us much longer than that, I should like to have the folks do what they can to secure my discharge. In this connection, if I had a teaching job it would help me out much earlier than otherwise would be possible. The life is not hard, however, and I am finding a notable increase in my ability to get along with fellows.

I can use any goodies ma sends me. I am not suffering in any way about my food. Otherwise I am O. K.
Love,
Norbert

Range Firing Section,
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.
Nov. 21, '18.

Dear ma:

I am well & happy here. I am not certain when my discharge is coming, but I consider it quite within the bounds of possibility that I shall be home for X-mas as a civilian. I am working hard, and getting on quite well with the boys. Notwithstanding what Captain Loomis said, I do not feel that I am misunderstood by the most ~~or~~ 'roughneck' of the fellows here, while the office force is a fine lot of professional men.

Army life, while I do not care for it as a steady thing, is no particular hardship. It is a most valuable experience for one who, like myself, has more or less of a tendency to avoid others — or at any rate, not to adapt myself to them.

Love
Robert.



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



Nov-24, 18

Dear Cona

I imagine your retirement from a life of industry is not unconnected with the worries of H₁² Vardure on your mind. I hope your bronchial affection (not cardiac) has completely subsided.

I am as yet quite uncertain as to the time of my discharge. It may come by Xmas, but it may not come for six months.

I have written to Moore & Bartlett in England, & am writing to the Furbe agency. I think even a high-school job would help me out of here.

I shall send my trunk today. Hope my bundle of civilian clothes reached you from Fort Sherman.

There is nothing doing at Rice Institute.

Thanks awfully for the goodies. The other fellows enjoyed them very much.

Love,
 Norbert



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



WAR ACTIVITIES

CAMP

Range Firing Section,
Aberdeen P. O., Md.

Dec. 1

1918

Dear ma:

I have written to
Bumpus — won't it be great if I
get the job? I could probably manage
to get in a little work at Harvard
as well.

The eats you sent me were
great, and the birthday presents also.
I thank awfully. Life here is quite
tolerable, though it isn't exactly
what I would choose as a career. Believe
you will find me somewhat more presentable
as to voice, etc. as a result of my
experience. My discharge remains a
matter of the dim and distant future,
and of the miraculous disposition of
an utterly ~~unfathomable~~ ^{unscrutable} government, but
I have applied for leave at Xmas, and
~~shall~~ ^{shall} likely get it.

Look to Cona's dramaturgical
labors! She ought to be able to get it. —



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR ACTIVITIES



CAMP

..... 191

may she do her damndest!
Some little group of talents that
girl has!
Love
Norbert.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO "THE COMMANDING OFFICER."

WAR DEPARTMENT
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
P. O. ABERDEEN, MD.

IN REPLYING REFER TO No.

Range Firing Section,
Aberdeen Proving Ground.
December 7, 1918.

Dear Ma:

I'm O.K., and expect to be out in a comparatively short time. At any rate, I am almost certain of a week or more of leave about Xmas. I have heard from Tufts and the Fisk people - nothing doing at Tufts, as S. is only on leave of absence. The Fisk people let me know of a job at Southwestern Presbyterian - \$1800, but church members preferred. I wrote and referred to Crothers for character. Nothing has come yet from England.

Good luck to Conta and her play. She ought to make good.

Love.

Robert Wiener



"WITH THE COLORS"



Mrs. Leolt Wrenner
29 Sparks St.
Cambridge, Mass



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



Dec 12, 18

Dear ma

I cannot be positive about being home Xmas, but expect to, if only for two or three days.

I expect to be discharged soon - probably by Jan. 1, but I am not sure. I have heard from Fish of a vacancy as head of the math. dept. at Southwestern Presbyterian at \$1800, beginning Jan. 2, and am applying for it.

Work is coming O.K.; but there is no news. Luck to Coats! Send the goodies on!

Love,
Harbert



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



Dec. 16, '18.

Dear ma:

I do not know when I shall get leave, but whether at Xmas or later, I shall take it and come home. I only have to pay one cent a mile, or \$8 in all for the round trip. While I may get discharged soon, I may not till spring. I do not take trips to Baltimore nor to Washington, but I will not be denied a few days respite from the drab monotony of camp life. This is the one and only hardship which I undergo. I am well fed, healthy, and easily worked. But if you knew how my comrades and myself now that the sustaining ~~need~~ of necessity of war is over, count the days and even the hours to our discharge, and seize upon every opportunity to leave behind us the yellow, oozy mud underfoot, the orderly ranks of slate-gray frame



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



barracks, the same eternal orbit between
barrack, mess - hall, and office you would
not question the desirability of my journey.

9

The job at Southwestern Presbyterian
did not materialize as I am not a church
member. It served its turn, however, in
advancing me in the order of discharge.

As to my returning to Harvard for
research, my funds are sufficient to
justify me therein. Research is the
one direction in which my ambitions
lie, and I am in a mood for
it, after having been kept away from
it for so long. I do not consider it quite
right, however, that I should unnecessarily
run any chances of financial depen-
dence on you (at my age), nor that I
should let several months go by with-
out something definite to show for them
in the way of a position. Furthermore
I am by no means in a situation
where I can afford to look askance
at minor jobs: a man six years



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removed from his doctorate who has neither carried through any consequential piece of research nor occupied any responsible position may be pardoned for considering the oblivion of a second rate position at a third-rate college as his fate. I therefore ~~accept~~ ~~think~~ that Constance's scheme is simply as a temporary expedient, and that I shall meanwhile continue my search for a job through the Fish People

Good luck to Constance with her play! I imagine she will get the prize, since anything which she will get by her own critical ~~power~~ examination should stand the scrutiny of anyone else. I am glad the whole family is so well.

Love,

Robert.

P.S. I shall send the typewriter & a few other things home soon



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Dec. 20, '18.

Dear Ma:

I will not be home Xmas, but shall get 9 or 10 days leave soon thereafter. After all, it is the being at home that counts, and not the Xmas so much. As to discharge, that may not come for several months, though I expect it by March. I think that the research is a good idea, and I am already considering several possible subjects for consideration.

Nobody is working here but I am one of the less lazy ones in this office. I have made a minor suggestion which is being adopted in some investigations on range tables by Dr. Granstein.

Look to Cora in her work! She is bound to make good.

Love,

Robert

are. ² Seriously, it seems to me important, if one aims at knowledge of the mind, to state what one's observation reveals; but I suppose that would only be an analysis which is an inventory. However, that seems, in my sense, so obvious that I am sure my sense is not yours. Again, I cannot understand why you should say that, on any hypothesis, Thought & its experience, - [judgment & its object?], - must be similarly ordered. I imagine Bergson would say that, broadly, & hence

The University of Sydney

20. VII. '18

My Dear Wiener, By the time you receive this, I hope you will be comfortably sitting in your chair at Puerto Rico. Your letter was interesting, although its brevity was not an aid to lucidity, - for me! Best wishes for your volume of essays! I shall be pleased to read what you may have to say upon the question of unimageless thought. I can't see why an inventorial analysis is not valuable: though, of course, it depends upon what one's values

about £200 worth of psychological apparatus, with which we hope to astonish the youthful mind in this part of the world.

At the moment of writing, the war news seems more satisfactory than for some time past. I hope that your president uses the force at his disposal to bring about a decent peace, & a league to enforce it. As events have turned out, he has a great power.

With kindest regards
sincerely yours

B Muscio

3
must upon intuition. I do not see how one could determine the truth or falsity of your statement except by an inventorial analysis, by a knowledge of the two series. And I should like to know in consequence just how you do it. But you will probably make that clear in your book.

I am just now beginning an experimental course in psychology of 4-5 lectures, mostly demonstrations. We have recently received from America

July 23, 1918
1210 Captain Vickers
Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Md.

Dear Constance

It has been frightfully hot the past few days, and my writing ability has accordingly undergone a slump. Today I worked outdoors at the range as timekeeper in the recording of a trajectory. Monday I invented a new method of interpolating between given trajectories, which proved more satisfactory than the method in use. Work progresses nicely. I am at present dusty, winging wet with

perspiration, and tired

Tell me more about
New York - and have
you seen Gaby again?

With love,
Marbet.



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"WITH THE COLORS"



August 7, 1918,
c/o Major Veblen,
Abdeen P. O., Md.

Dear Dad:

The murderous heat has abated, the rain is beating on the roof of the Y.M.C.A. shack, and I feel again like putting pen to paper, and letting you know how I am. First, I have decided to stay, and not accept Bray's recommendation for the urgent vacancy at Rice Institute for which he was asked to find an adequate person. Second, the razor-blades, sheets, etc. have arrived. Third, the work is coming on O.K., and I am rejoiced to find that I am not so utterly lacking in practical usefulness as I had formerly believed. Civilian or soldier, I am doing here a task, small though it is, which is directly connected with the prosecution

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

TO THE FOLK AT HOME: SAVE FOOD, BUY LIBERTY BONDS AND WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

of the war. I hope to be inducted into
the service as a soldier soon. When
my induction comes I shall have
a week in which to report. I
shall count this as leave, and
come home.

your loving son,

Harbert.



ORDNANCE DETACHMENT
ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.

Aberdeen

to Major Feblen,

Aug. 11, 1918.

Dear ma

Everything is O.K.
and first rate. I shall soon
go up to N. Y. for a week
end to see Cona. It has
been rather warm and sticky
but I have stuck to my job
O.K.

I am well, husky, & thinner. The experience is invaluable, and will in the future enable me to hold up my head when I am asked of my part in the war.

With love,
Markert.



ORDNANCE DETACHMENT
ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.

aberdien
40 Major T. E. Ebley,
August 11, 1919.

Dear Constance:

The news of late
has been glorious. Victory
may not be at hand, but it seems
that the tide of blood which has
swept over France and Belgium
has begun its ebb. One can look forward
to the time when the background
of his consciousness will be freed
from the spectres of massacre and
tyranny which have oppressed and

I shall drop in on you in
New York some week end.

With love,
Robert



Futuristic diagram of my job

falsified all intellectual activity for
the past four years. It is good to
think of the time when one can indulge
his tastes for ~~intellectual~~ ^{scientific} research
without the feeling that everything
but the war is futile foolery.

After this bunk, in my
encyclopedic style, let me
say that work here is
interesting, but I want a
couple of days respite from
mud, dust, barracks, and
the sight of khaki, and if
you will let me know
when you want me to come,

[ca. 1918-19]



40 Captain ~~Teller~~

ORDNANCE DETACHMENT
ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.

Aberdeen

Liebes Stanzchen!

Di vales bene est.

Ego vales. Imagine your
big brother sitting on
top of an earthen rampart,
with a telephone receiver and
mouthpiece strapped on, and
the free ear stuffed with
cotton. Twenty feet off a

'Six - seven - eight - nine -
~~Go!~~ - eleven - twelve - thirteen
- fourteen - ~~Go!~~' A little cloud
comes into being where none
was before. 'Seen!' someone
calls through the phone.

'~~Go~~ - twenty - ~~Go~~ -
twentyfive - ~~Go~~ - thirty,
and so on for a minute.
Someone says 'Middle
station has had enough -
near station has had
enough - Enough!' 9

out where I can see him.

I yell in the phone, 'gun ready!'

The call comes 'Ready! FIRE!'

and the muzzle of a French 75 two guns off shoots back as

its ~~muzzle~~ muzzle is enveloped in a sheet of flame. I ~~press~~ the key of my stop-watch. 'One-two-three-four', it ticks. 'Go!'

I yell at the top of my voice into the phone.

4-point - 2 howitzer is belching its flame and its load of flying death (newspaper stuff) at brief intervals. To the left lie a pile of 8-inch T.N.T. shell. A call comes on the phone "Near station ready - middle station ready - far station ready - ALL-Ready." I call out 'Lieutenant Eby! All ready, sir!' The Lieutenant steps

our phone down ~~is~~ the burden
of transmitting the profanity it
induces.

Well, goodbye,
Herbert



46 Major Veblen
ORDNANCE DETACHMENT
ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.

Aberdeen

August 18, '18.

Dear Con:.

I have had rather a
stiff week's work, which has
had rather a repressing — perhaps
I should say damming — influence
on my correspondance. Thursday
I worked from 7.30 A.M. till 9.30 P.M.
on the range. I shall get time off
for the over-overtime I have done
so I shall probably turn up the

in anti-aircraft ordnance work
'over there', after my induction
comes.

You telephone expert, get
them to invent a portable head
set that (A) Will not have jack trouble.

(B) Will not break connections
or be otherwise injured by
rough handling,

(C) Will be fairly comfortable
to wear, and

(d) Will not be so damned
temperamental as our range
phone here. Sometimes I think
that the thing that breaks

Friday or Thursday evening before
Labor Day, and stay till Monday
evening.

Work is interesting. I get along
O.K. with the other fellows,
and am in flourishing health.
But just wait and see what
execution I can do to a man-
size dinner

When I get drafted I
have a good chance of
getting in the officer's training
school. It is quite on the cards
that I may yet be engaged



ORDNANCE DETACHMENT
ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.,

Aug. 26, '18.

Lieber Stanzchen:

Donnerstag ungefähr
sieben oder acht Uhr abends
komme ich nach New York —
ganz gefutzt. Hier gibts Nichts
neues.

Dein Bruder.



40 Major Tublen,
~~ORDNANCE DETACHMENT~~
~~ORDNANCE PROVING GROUND, MD.~~
abdeen

August 26, 1918

Dear ma:

I'm here, O. K., and well, but hot, and awfully lazy. I visit Constance Thursday. News is so scarce it doesn't exist, and I am writing this letter simply to let you know I'm alive and picking. More will follow when I'm in New York.

With love
Robert

my work is also of the most elementary nature.

the eternal khaki the want of all the externals of civilization that characterize an army camp. Perhaps however, the difference between what we are undergoing is just about made up by the difference between a man and a woman. So let us call it a go: if one of us can stick it out, the other can. As for me, I am hungering for the ease, the enthusiasm, the absorption of scholarly work, but — that is over till the war is over. I can and will stick it out, and I do not consider myself anything of a martyr for doing so. And you know, Constance, I have always considered that you have the more vigorous character of us two.

After this little lecture ~~caused~~ induced by some tokens of depression which you have betrayed in letters to me, let us remember that at the rate of progress of the allies, it won't be long before the big shindy is over. Also, we can visit one another and the folks at moderately frequent intervals. I advise you to go to the

[1918]

Sept. 14.

ΚΟΥΟΤΑΔΥΤΙΔ Εμὸ ἠφίλτατη:

In about a week or ten days

I shall be in uniform. I shall probably be able to secure five or ten days' leave at the start. In that case I shall go home at once, but be sure that at least a day of my time shall be spent with you at New York.

I have been passing through a period of depression — caused by an excessive number of blunders in my computations.

must sooner or later learn to endure. Of course, a man is used to hardships more than a girl, but if the deadly sameness of the office routine, the subway ride, the ~~same~~ eating place, the ~~room~~ you live on you, begin to depress you, remember that you are enduring them for a time and a purpose, while they form the lifelong environment of nine out of ten of your fellow workers. I have been through the same mill at Cornell, in Cambridge, in Orono, and in Albany, and I loved it no more than you do. I am not saying this complainingly but ~~my~~ whatever you have to ~~undergo~~ in New York is paradise beside the dusty camp, the rough-boarded rooms,

After several days of reasonably correct work, however, coupled with the evidence of work which I have checked for other fellows to the effect that humanum est errare, I feel much better. I suppose you ~~too~~ ^{also} occasionally have spells of dejection. Remember these things, however: first, you have decided to work this year more or less as a patriotic duty, and if it does not cause you lasting injury, it is up to you to stick it out, whether at the W. E. or elsewhere. Realize the boresomeness of a routine which does not demand the full employment of your abilities. Believe me, however, that is just what every man and woman

movies & theatre ~~at~~ fairly ~~frequent~~
regularly, take hikes on week-ends,
and all that. This experience is
as valuable to you, in its way,
as my experiences away from home
have been to me.

After all, Cona, you are
one brick, and all that. Auf baldiges
Wiedersehen!

Murbins

P.S. Don't let anything I have
said be taken as a persuasion
for you to tax yourself beyond your
strength. The subway is awful, I know.
By the way, there is a likelihood that

they will soon be taking on girl
college graduates for chronograph work
at Aberdeen. Tether had heard of your
desire for government work, and
mentioned the fact to me. Nothing
definite has been decided, however, in
this respect. Aberdeen is an awful
hole, but the work is very valuable,
and involves physical ~~research~~ ^{knowledge}. We
could live near here in Harve de Grace.
I don't know how to advise you.

N.



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Sept. 6, '18

Lieber Stawzchen!

I am here at work again, O.K.
My induction is coming through
soon, and then I shall have probably
a few days' leave to see the folks.
What are you going to do - N.Y.
or Washington? In either case I can
see you regularly. As a soldier,
I get a maximum of 10 days leave
every 3 months. 6 days are due to me
automatically, while the rest may
be earned by overtime or details.
If you are in Washington, even
as a soldier I shall be able to
'check out' practically every week
end.

Camp life is - camp life, but
it is up to all of us to give up a
little bit till the big shindy is over.
When I think of Bill and Pfeiffer, I see
how vastly disappointed they will be
when, after a life of moderate ^{simplicity} ~~simplicity~~
for which they have duly reported,

they are admitted by the heavenly
Warden of the Keys, ~~they are~~ and the occasion
is not celebrated by a delegation of harps
at the entrance Pitt was here the other
day, & Gronwall is still here. Pitt seems
to have been really peeved the other night.
That ungainly agglomeration of concert
is exactly what Sclis will grow into.

Goodbye!
Norbert

Jetzt schreib ich auf Deutsch.
Abgleich diese Sprache die Sprache
eines Volkes ist, die so viel Unabes gemacht
haben, doch übe ich mich gern an
einer Sprache, die an wissenschaftlichen
Zwecken so nützlich ist. Es ist
interessant zu bemerken, wie die
Linsen des kaiserlichen Schweinhundes
(sich täglich) zurückziehen. Hoffentlich
wird Metz bald wieder von den Franzosen
erobert werden, und die dreifarbigel
Fahne immer weiter in das deutsche
Gebiet vorsteigen. Um diese Zeit das nächste
Jahr wird das Bundesheer Straßburg,
Mainz, Koblenz, Köln, Aachen besitzen.
Ist es nicht grossartig, von ungeheuren
amerikanischen Siegen immer zu hören?
Lebewohl!
Vale!
So long!
Robert

A.P.G., Md.
Sept. 19, 18,

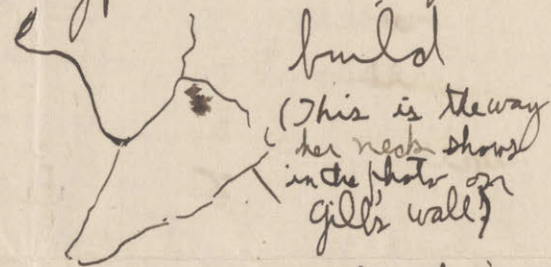
Dear Cona:

I may not be able
to secure leave upon my induction,
but if I do, be sure that I shall spend
some time in N. Y. I am working
hard at present, and putting in
some of my evening & Sunday time
in studying math. & preparing an article.
By the way, there are two kids here of
very considerable math. ability —
Franklin & Gill. They are only 19 & 20
years old, respectively. One has a
sister & the other a lady
friend — who are graduate students
at Columbia, in classics & math,

He is a graduate of the same
Polytechnic at Berlin to which father
went.

Multum defessus sum. Abaci manipulator
incessans vero non ardua, ~~at~~ at minutissima,
et timor erroris semper praesert. Probatioque
~~diagramma~~ linearum aequationibus correspondantium
oculis non beneficit. Me non liberare possum
timore, ne in rebus et scientiae geometricae et
potentialibus aliis interesse inferior sim sociis.
Quae cum ita sint, scio quemquam,
nisi ultimum ~~fact~~ faciat ~~parum~~ ut
promoveat bellum et Americae victoriam,
sceleratum pavidum esse. Gaudio, quia
michi non vetatum esse partem quamquam
minutissimam in his rebus habuisse.
Michi ~~negati~~ sunt ensis atque arcus,
michi ~~negata~~ ~~arma~~ acies ~~parvas~~ ~~prima~~
belli, ~~et~~ sed michi licet tunica militis
induere, omnia militis nisi proelium ipsum
facere, quasi milesculum fieri, et doctiter
faciam.

respectively. They have been notified
to look you up at the library. Miss
F.; judging by her picture, is a young
lady of the prototype. The other girl
is more of the



I am betraying a remarkable
talent for blundering. Some fine
day I shall add two and two
and get five. Subtracting four on
each side, I shall come to the
remarkable conclusion that the universe
is nothing, and become a Buddhist.
Orwell is more interesting
than he appeared at first sight.

I have been appointed to a research position under the English National Fatigue Board, which includes a few lectures at Cambridge. I don't know details yet, as I received the offer by cable only two days ago; but the post seems to be a good one. I want to spend some time in the States, looking round some of the universities, particularly at the research departments bearing upon my work. I also want to see some psychology in actual application to industry, if I can. I don't know

The University of Sydney

29. XI. '18

Dear Wiener, My wife & myself are leaving for England shortly & propose travelling via U.S.A. The boat we shall probably take is the 'Niagara' (C.A.S.S.), which leaves Sydney about the second week in January. I am afraid that we shall not be in U.S.A. during your time vacation, & so have little hope of seeing you; but if you are 'by chance' out of your colonial post, I may.

Write of Thomas W. L. L.,
245 Broadway, New York (to
be called for, — I shall set
them till about the end of
January).

With kindest regards

Yours ever

B. Muscio

whether I shall be allowed
time in the States or required to
reach England as soon as possible;
but I shall know that of the
time I reach America.

If you happen to know
anyone who has been doing
work in industrial psychology
I should be grateful for an
introduction to him. I should
very much like to see you, if
that is possible. Anyway, if
we come to Harvard, we shall
certainly call on you father &
family.

just as soon as I get your letter.

[ca. Dec., 1918]

Dear Herbert:

Boh! Now is the time for you to
catch up with yourself - Mathematically speaking.
No decent jobs begin at this time of year -
particularly as the universities are at sea
as to their financial ~~limitation~~ ^{troubles}. Work in the
summer if you want to, take odd jobs tutoring,
do anything you think necessary to square it with
your own conscience, but don't you dare
to forfeit your academic dignity on an obscure
job. I have often heard Gaby say of some
math job that had been just filled - "no
self-respecting mathematician would take it."
Because you got your Doctor's 6 yrs before the
average man, that is no reason why you
should compromise your time with what you
must do, it to show some "goods" along approved
and conventional lines. I know you can, so does
Gaby, who has every respect for your intelligence.
Boh! I tell you! Boh, Boh, Boh!

Love

Con

P.S. Mother + Father agree! —
P.S. Of course come Xmas. —
Mother

PROCLAMATION.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that on or about the fourteenth day of December in the year of our Lord nine teen hundred and eighteen Sergeant Smith did propose an armistice between himself and Private Wiener, wherein the said sergeant did bind himself to refrain from all jests of a practical nature, alleging that the said Private Wiener was unable to retain command over his temper. Be it known, moreover, that the said Private Wiener entered into this agreement in good faith.

NOW WHEREAS: 1.

On the sixteenth of the same month said Sergeant Smith did maliciously connive at an attempt to beguile said Private Wiener into removing his mustache, and so far succeeded in his attempt as to convince said private of a regimental order providing for facial depilation.

AND WHEREAS:

2. On perceiving that said private had assured himself of the non-existence of the said order, said sergeant pretended to be ignorant of the violation of said order, that he might beguile said Wiener into exhibiting emotions of pleasure, and thus convict him of inconsistency.

AND WHEREAS:

3. Said private, by pretending to fall into this transparent trap, did succeed in eliciting from said sergeant an epistle of surpassing insolence, containing a full confession of his conduct.

AND WHEREAS:

4. Such action on the part of said sergeant is in distinct contravention of the aforementioned covenant of armistice.

T

THEREFORE;

Be it known that said Wiener denounceth said armistice as null and void, and considers himself at liberty to resume hostilities without further notice.

IN TOKEN WHEREOF THE UNDERSIGNED DOETH SET HIS
HAND.

Robert Wiener

WITNESS:

C. A. Rupp, Sec. Ruttlestone

Of what you say is true you are
very clever. ~~How~~ The result, however, is
the same. Having really put me over
on me you are now exulting. My former
epistle holds. This is all bull on the part
of Smith.

14
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