

From: Private Guy B. Hoge,  
Base Ordnance Depot # 1,  
U. S. A. P. O. # 701,  
American Ex. Forces,  
France.

September 29th., 1918.

Dear Mother:

I received your letter written August eighteenth this forenoon, and also one from Will Titus written the nineteenth. It had been a little more than a week since I had received any mail. It is strange how I receive mail over here. It generally comes in bunches, and sometimes in the inverse order in which it was sent. I received three letters from Morgan in exactly the inverse order in which he had mailed them. When I receive letters, I usually look at the first few lines of the ones from home to see that you are all well, and then put them in my pocket to read when I have time to enjoy them. Will Titus has been writing to me quite often since I have been away. His letters always make me feel good. He writes with the same enthusiasm with which he talks. Titus always seemed more like a brother to me since I have grown up than any other cousin I have.

We have been working this forenoon, but I guess we are excused this afternoon. I have one or two small jobs to do before I can get away. We can scarcely tell when Sunday comes. The work I do helps me to keep trace of it on the Calendar. I had intended to put on my better suit this morning, but it looked so rainy that I did not do it. You might not know the difference in my being dressed up and my being in my old clothes, but I can tell the difference. I know which suit was issued to me last by the way it fits. I am going to Church services at the Y. M. C. A. this evening. That is my time to attend Church now.

I was very sorry to hear of the boys of Company K being killed. But that seems to go with the game. I had heard through a fellow I knew who was in the same regiment that Company K had suffered, but I had not learned who were the unfortunate ones with the exception of one or two fellows I did not know. I was sorry that Mary did not send me the casualty list as you said she was going to do. Will Titus asked me if it was alright to cut clippings from the papers that would be of interest to me and send them. Tell him that that would be alright, and that I would be very glad to get the clippings. The mail coming to us from the States is not censored. Clip-

(2)

ping placed in a letter might reach me more quickly than a paper. Mary was speaking of sending some Observers. I will be very glad to get them.

Monday noon: I did not get off yesterday afternoon as I thought I would. I got busy and had to remain until 5:30. I went to the Y. M. C. A. to services last evening and then to the barracks and laid down and read the daily paper thru. In addition to that I had one of the heartiest laughs I have had in many days, after lying down. We have one "Tommy" in our barracks. I do not know why he is quartered in an American camp. He is gassed or wounded in some manner I think. He is English to the core, and thinks that England is about the only country on the map. He was singing the praises of England and the English people, and naturally the Americans fellows took it up for the United States. You would be amused at the wit that comes from such a friendly quarrel. He was told that the Americans had licked them twice, that if he would visit America he would never return to England, that he need not worry as the Americans would feed him when England ran out of anything to eat, and that England had to wait for America to come over to win this war for her. It was about like youngsters quarreling over who has the finest father. Those are some of the things which go to cheer up the fellows and help pass away the leisure moments.

I was sorry to hear that your knee had been giving you trouble. Be careful of it and let someone else do as much of the work as possible. I suppose you do not have anyone now as Mary is probably back to her school.

Everyone is telling me that my brother is a great 'ladies', or lady's, boy. Tell him not to let it interfere with his High School education. An education is an important thing. Tell him I have no objections to his going with the girls other than that as long as he goes with nice girls. Probably he does not wish any suggestions from me on that subject.

I can scarcely realize that your letter was the first you had written to me since you learned I had arrived safely in France, or probably you did not know it was France. I did not have that knowledge when I wrote the card. I suppose you knew that that card never crossed the water. It was written before we embarked and mailed when our safe arrival was cabled back.

Would have enjoyed being at home the Sunday you had all your visitors as well as many other Sundays when you do not have so many.

I am enjoying the best of health,-- hungry three times a day. I never had such an appetite. I eat three or four times as much as I did when in an office all the time and getting no exercise.

We sign the pay-roll this afternoon. I hope I get some money this month.

Your son,

*Guss*  
#

*R. B. White*  
*Capt. U.S. Army*