Camp Logan Texas - 9/14, Co. 5th Ill. Inf.  
Oct. 1 - 1917 -  

Well dear mother - your birthday past and I never sent you a thing - I feel so bad about it too - but have been so busy and hardly know what to do next some time. I have charge of the men alright, but that just means more work and responsibility. I have so much to say I hardly know where to begin. And so little a time to write in. I have just written a little letter to Maude. Well I will start with us going to France. I don't know why such a report should be out, but as for me I have not heard one thing to verify it. I have no idea of leaving here for some time to come; if, then. So please don't worry just yet a while; for there will be lots of time for that when it really does come; and if one were going so soon, we surely would know something about it; and even if one were going - I would never regret having enlisted when I did. It has been the only thing for me. It has really made
more for me than anything else and is just what I have been needing since I almost run myself to death there in the Privity. I feel now like living; and while I am very busy I feel good for it.

I am sending you my old programme given to me by the captain, by order of the colonel, for the month of Sept. My Oct. programme is more to do than the one I am sending you.

I am having to get pretty hard boiled here lately - I have been pretty easy on the fellows and they are slipping it over on me when they get a chance. So from now on I am going to do the slipping if there is any to be done - see - and the captain said if they don't do as I say, just bring them over and he would give a little hell with them. So here I am unexperienced and more responsibility than our first sergeant has. For all my drilling with the bugler is before commissioned officers and if I don't deliver the goods I mighty soon would show myself up, while the sergeants
of this Co. - am never seen by commissioned officers while in charge of the company. So you see all my spare time is put to studying so I can deliver the goods when called on to do it. Also have charge of mounted scouts at certain times of the day now.

Was out this morning teaching our horses how to jump - my little horse is a jumper and can run like a jack rabbit. Sure love to ride it - I may have a horse issued to me some time or other. Am on map drawing again - and most everything else a man may be required to know. The captain is either taking a liking to me and giving me a good chance or else he is putting a lot of extra work on me for just a private pay - rather think the last is more correct, giving it to me because I am willing to do it. But I may change his mind for him soon as I believe I will get transferred to signal corps before long - if they will let me in there and I guess they need men who can take hold.

At present tho I am waiting to see what they are going to do here. I like this all right, if there is anything in it for me. I guess by the end of this week all of
This division will be together - I don't know how many thousand there will be but it will be a great many. I know that well, I spent Sat. after noon riding my horse and Sunday in Galveston. And will say it is a picturesque place - so old and some pretty picture in real life, the palm trees and flower trees and green foliage is sure beautiful. We rode around one the city in a machine and all along the sea wall and to the waves where the big ocean freight boats were being loaded. Saw one big boat putting out for England. Saw an interned boat has been anchored in harbor 4 months.

There are many large boats there. We crossed the harbor to the fort. They have disintegrating rifles there and mortars. Saw jelly fish and caught one. Saw big fish 7 or 8 feet long. They are tarpons I think. They were playing out in the bay. Boat went close to where they were.

Also was in bathing, some like the salt water. Easier to swim in it. Makes your eyes smart if you dive with them open, but it is swell to lay on the beach and let the waves wash up over you. The whole day was full to the finish and I saw all a person could see in one day was educational as well as
enjoyable. There is not one regret for any thing went well. On the picture of the 4 of a -
all the others - corporal Blankenburg - flashy
and myself - we stuck together all day-
and they were all in for all we could see
in one day. While there were some rather
good looking girls in bathing (one piece
suit) I never spoke to one all day. It
seems that the people down here have
never forgotten the civil war and it
is noticeable by their actions, while they
treat us alright, yet there is something
lacking - that we were used to up in the
north, and to say you came from Illinois
sure don't help things any-
well dear mother - I feel like I am the
busiest man in camp - There is so much
I ought to know, that I have no short
time to learn in - and to be a commando
takes teaching and training - just what I
have never had, and to do justice to the
fellows and yet get out of them what must
come out, it is a perplexing proposition.
That makes me think as I have never
that before - for this is the first time in my
life that men were ever under my direct
supervision and I have almost absolute
control or authority over two men - and
they will bring things up and ask questions
you would never have thought of and
no manual on military time in the
world would ever be able to answer
them, and yet they ask me and expect me to give them a reasonable answer.

Well this is Tuesday night and we are still here with no chance of going to France if we wanted to even so bad. Really do believe the 5th Reg. will never get away from this camp as long as the war lasts.

Well I will close and write again some time as soon as I hear from you.

Give Lena one of the pictures, for I really want her to have one and that she did get one, so give her one and tell her I am glad to hear that she even so much as wants one.

Do I look in the picture I am sending like I am not enjoying my soldier life and do I look worse for the wear? I look kind o tough I think and I do weigh about 148 or more, so I can't be worrying myself away. I am so sorry it is so lonesome for you, for I do like it so well in this division, compared to any other work I have ever done and I like my little riding horse too.

Say what is Ethels address now. If she is any where between here and Galveston I am going to see her well. Please don't worry about me for things are alright and me one here for some time, hoping to hear from you again only not so mad a letter - I am on everyone loving you - Paul B.
P.S. was waiting letter this morning at Y.m.c.a. and that I would not seal it up right away and am glad I did not for I can now answer your most important question in your letter.

1. About clothing and my tennis shoes—keep everything at present for some think we will be home for good by Xmas and you can never tell although it may be a long time yet it won't hurt to keep my thing a while longer as they have been kept this long. If you want to you can send fuzzy cap to Ray.

2. I would be much pleased for you to have my certificate framed and hung in laboratory, but don't go to much expense. I am so glad you talk about the work upstairs, I can just see how it all looks as plain as if I were there.

3. I am afraid I was jeered and a little upset to ones judge about any body working against me. One of the Quincy buglers did want very bad just what I now have (charge of the buglers) but I guess that don't count for much.
4) I don’t use my trumpet any more – I have it cleaned and locked in my case. Dust is bad and all I use is the mouthpiece for my bugle. Small bugle about 9 inches long, bell 2 3/4 in. in diameter.

5) And as for map drawing I guess no one is working against me much. Although you can’t always tell. Will take up map drawing later. And as for rattlers, we went hunting rattlers the other day. Some of them down here get to 9-10 feet long. Diamond head rattlers are most vicious and land moccasins are almost as bad. But an old settler out here in the woods told me how to fight them and manage them. He says they’re no joke and to be careful and act quick when the time comes. I am doing no map drawing as yet.

6) You don’t know how much I appreciate the fact that people seem to think as much of me as you say they do. I only hope I will be able to live so as to always be that of in that way.
While it is a great change from Quincy we are gradually getting used to it here and by this time it is beginning to seem like home to me. We have many more conveniences here—such as baths, water supply and electric lights in tents and shade, cool nights—fine sleeping—daytime warm but generally a good breeze blowing.

Gold Smith has never done anything to my suit. So if daddy will he would like for him to get it and you can do as you please with it. Better keep it at home. I would rather it be there.

Since the captain has given me charge of the buglers, I don't have any kitchen duty to do—so I would be doing that today instead of writing to you—for this would have been my day one.

And dear mother—about the cookies—while I would enjoy them to the fullest, but please don't go to the expense of sending them a way down here. I will thank you just as much for your thoughtfulness, but I think it would
be a rather expensive treat.

It is now evening and I am still writing.

I sat in your band concert this evening.

I am going to Galveston next Sun. If I can
get permission from my captain; for I
believe payday will be soon.

Well it is a little more like living here now.

They turned a big 8 in hose on to the streets
and walk here and completely settled the
dust. The only time you see a woman is when
you go to the city. Seems rather strange too.

There is some talk of the whole 5th. Reg. being
adjudicated and divided up among other Reg.

And instead of being dissatisfied with the
long letter I was simply tickled to death &
got it for it just seemed to take me back home
on a little visit - you described what you
have been doing so plain. And I do feel sorry
for Cecil. I sure is too bad for her.

But about letters. I don't believe you can
enjoy letters from me much more than I
enjoy getting them from you, but sometime
you just can't find time to write. Much
better tho since we have electric lights in
outfits.
(About the pictures)

I have waited an hour before sending the letter to please excuse my delay. I am sending the three pictures in this letter. They are numbered on their backs and described. Rare an unusual picture to catch with a camera, don't you think? The formation of the rocks where the picture does not show made it possible to get up to where I am pretty close and away the picture. You will notice there are no tree tops near enough to begin to take a picture from—so the fellow with the camera had to climb with me.

Some places the rocks aren't of almost vertical until I came to the ledge I am sitting on and then they began to come hanging so I could not go far the top. But I am safe and sound down here in Houston so I guess the climb didn't hurt me.
I received the cookies all O.K. Sure were good. The fellows in this tent all said for me to thank you for them. Corporal Dixon in here said they were the best he had ever eaten.

Today was my payday. How much will you need this month. Will you need $2.50 to start for that is the amount you have to have to start with, and if you need more than $5 I will draw out and send it to you later, or by doing that I can start an account.

You ought to see me on my horse. I am being taught horsemanship. The little bay I ride has a head that looks like gypsy only smaller and he is just a little cricket full of life like Lady Lydan Salt Air is used to have. Only this one is not quite as tall and the slenderest legs you ever saw.
morning instruction —  
with companies.  
Hendrickson will report with  
mounted orderlies at 7:00  
o'clock at picket line.  

Afternoon:  
1:30 to 3:00 Semaphore signalling  
with mounted scouts.  
3:00 to 3:30 Setting up exercises  
under Sgt. Major Becker.  
3:30 to 5:00 - Bugle practice under  
Hendrickson, Hq. Co.  

Buglers — deliver to  
Hendrickson.