Nov. 20, 1918.

My dear Cecil,

Just got the letter of Oct. 22 and will write you a few lines if not more. Am always so glad to hear from you. I have not heard from Carl at all. Suppose he forgot to write after all.

So you have your electric lights in now. I can remember back far enough to know how convenient they are. I know you appreciate them to their fullest. I would now if only I had a chance to. I use a little gasoline lamp, burns like a torch, has a rope like wick, small and very easy to carry. Our dugout has a nice stove and beds for four of us. a small place but enough room and is very dry. We found a whole case of cannon powder comes in sticks that look like spearmint gum—can hardly see any difference in shape, size and color. Fine to start fires with, keep putting on
a couple at a time and soon
you have a fine hot fire. Will
start any kind of wood to burning.
Have to be carefull tho' and not
get too much at once, for she
sure Burns quick.
It has been freezing here lately.
These old woods seems lonesome and
cold at night. And is awfully
quiet. Not a sound and the wind
still moves pecking over some high
ridge. Some rough country between
meridian and metz and we have
been in here some time now. Have
no idea what will be done now with
us or where we will be sent. At pres-
ent we are doing nothing but drill
and the band Reese. We rehearse
twice a day. Are getting pretty well
on to the run of things now and
certainly enjoy those rehearsals to
the fullest. Can't get too much of
it. I sure feel lucky to be in
the band, now that the war seems
to be over and if I was in some
other outfit I would be drilling and
be pretty much a waste of time, as
all the real things are of the past.

But in the band I am getting a
bit of training that I will benefit
myself by and have been wanting
for some time. It did not bear much
on my mind tho before the war, for
little did I expect to be so alive
and healthy at the end of the pay.
And as it now looks as if some
time we will be home ward bound
I am anxious to learn all I can.
For I remember quite a few very
enjoyable evenings we've spent to
gether on our music and I am
hoping for more to come soon. I
suppose I will be more or less a
bother to you if you want to study
much tho. For you sure can't study
with me around.

I certainly am so sorry to hear
of so many cases of the Sp. Flu. Your
every one seems to be taking their
turn at it. Is there no chance for
a let up some time soon? It will throw you out of lots of good school but you keep practicing all the time don’t you? That should not hurt your individual practice.

You sure had some time at your friends house that Sun. evening. Boy are funny fellows are they not? They are so hard to see things. Don’t seem to know. Have to be told everything have no initiative. They are not all alike tho, thank God. But it is a generally excepted thing that a boy is a stupid sort of an insect.

Have no bunch, I will be more than stupid when I get back, will be really ignorant of so many things, but pin telling you, in trenches, dugouts, and froggie billets is no place to learn little items of etiquette and there are a great many things I am going to have to stop doing and a great many things I will have to start. For instance, my general use of the english language is simply rotten.
was just noticing lately how I have been using it. Not only myself but all of us. I will remind you a great deal of a ruffian when you see me. But I guess I can learn to be a civilian again easier than I learned to be a soldier. Maybe before long I will have the long looked for opportunity to try.

Our division has received quite a few medals now. We have been awful hard hit and have done some of the hardest kind of fighting. Quite a number yet in hospitals but there are a lot that never got that far. We have seen some of the hardest knocks since being in the service and our work the least appreciated of any. Have kept us so quiet, any amount of times I've seen items in papers of divisions that at the time were operating with us or by us and never do near the work and stand the roughing as we did, but you never see 33rd Div. mentioned.

All in all, I'll have done and said lots for her drafted boys & camps, but
the old France div. I never see men-
tioned. We are not grieving; only its
noticable, we have done our part and
a bloody sight more than many a one.
We are highly spoken of by British
and Australian as well as French-
even if our own state doesn’t say a
whole lot. It’s enough to know
you- as a whole, could do what
was done by us- and the way those
boys worked. They deserve much.

I now have the chance to get all
the U.S.M.C.A. papers I need, am
using yours tho for I like it better.
I don’t believe it will be so hard
now --- to keep papers on hands.
Will close for this time. Keep
writing as long as I am over here
for no telling how long now we
will still have to stay. Time sure
goes slow, nothing exciting.

So write often as you can and is
convenient—

Yours

Paul B. Hendrickson
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Paul E. Hendrickson
Infantry
U.S.A.

Soldiers mail
BASE
CENSOR

Dec. 20
1918

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