



[Nellie Donnelly (Mrs. J. H.)]



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



Aug. 25 1918

Dear father and mother

will answer your letter of a few days ago and glad you folks are all through threshing. How much did it make?

Have been very busy this week, we have about 8 hundred patients and they take lots of care we wont be so busy for a while for they moved about 30,000 men so that leased camp rather scarce but will move in more in a few weeks.

Our week was taken up day by drill every evening and ~~drill~~ in the morning. Next week we have gas drill with standing retreat every night at 6⁴⁵. This is a very pretty sight with all the officers, privates, and nurses. The base hospital

have the best band in camp
They gave a wonderful concert
wed here. Friday the officer
in command sent an ambulance
to take us over camp and it sure
was a wonderful trip, seeing
them drill, trench and bayonet
practice and all of the things connected
with warfare. Can't tell much
about camp so will not try.

and in the best of health
have had all of my things except
one my small gun did not take
Havent received any other mail
but expect to in a few days, as
I have been so busy have not
had time to write.

Havent been out side camp
since I been here so you see how
much time we have for the
out side world, not even a
news paper half the time but
one soon gets used to doing
with out the unnecessary
things



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



Have you heard from Anna or either
of the boys. I wrote Willie a letter
some time ago but received no answer

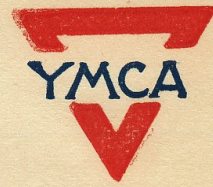
Received a notice from Washington
that all Red Cross nurses are
to have a special Out door suit
and over coat. The whole equipment
will cost about \$125.00 I don't see
how they expect us to equipt our
selves on \$50. a month. And
white uniforms that we have
will also have to be replaced
by the regulation uniform.

As news is very scarce and
am getting sleepy will close "am
having the after noon off and will
have to make use of it!"

Hoping you are well, the same as
if leaves me I am as ever your
loving Daughter Nellie



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



1

Draft 1-1918

Dear Parents

As I have time will write and explain why I sent such a hurried notice. We were called in the other day "30 of us" and were told we were selected from the nurses in camp for over sea work and possibly would leave in a couple of days. So there was nothing left to do but make a hurried preparation. We are all ready to go at a minute's notice. Will go to New York and receive our equipment and then to the battle line or near there. This process takes from 2-12 weeks in N.Y. I like my work better day and am certainly glad I am able to offer my service to the much needed Nursing Cause. We need thousands of nurses to carry out what is left for us to do. No one realizes what there is to do, even in a place like this. Not even thinking



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



2

of those poor men who have
been in the trenches there is
letters to write for them keeping
them in good spirits. watching for
"German Propaganda" this is one
of our worst draw backs "as the old
expression goes some one is always
taking the joy out of life". We allow
very little war talk in the wards
Several of our patients are up for
Court martial for disabling them
self's purposely. Some things to look
for all the time. One of our main
trouble is people sending in boxes
of food, have to watch whether
they can have it or not also divide
it among the others. We have one
poor man who has been in the
hospital several mo. And ~~not~~ not even
a little foot card does he receive.

Tell the Red Cross people that
thier work is much needed and



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



3

to keep up the good work. Our dressings and linen is something terrible just for one day. One almost thinks there is a whole section in a linen room, when you get in side of it.

Our main cry is wash rags, but even our cry for those were satisfied as the Red Cross just received about 50,000 the other day so no more worries in that line for a while. The Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. are two of the most needed organizations of the day there would be nothing of a desert if not for these two places to go when not on duty.

They certainly look after the patient welfare to a perfection and I know other people as well.

When a ^{man} patient is operated on or sick his people receive a telegram notifying them if they come the Red Cross looks after them should



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



them just where to go and show
them over camp. So don't think
they are doing me good for they
are

The people in Rockford are very
good to the nurse. Every Thursday
after noon they take as many as
can get on for a boat ride from
2:30 P. M. it certainly is one beautiful
trip with a lunch served all
free of charge. They also send cars
and take us out to dinner wherever
have one moment to even think
of being lonesome.

As for what I will want for to
take with me over sea is a
sleeveless sweater "Blue"

Mother please go to my room in
town and send my things from
there I could not get all of them in
my trunk when I left there. Need
not send any of those dresses but



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



would like the bath robe and
a few other articles.

If you like a thermos bottle
would be highly appreciated.

Many of my bears under ware is
there. Also that one pair of ~~fox~~
~~fox~~ Pagans. Oh yes I got a
scarf and wristlet of "blue"

If my clothes should come home
that is my civilian thing don't be
alarmed for that will only mean
that I am getting ready to sail

You folk will receive a letter
from my - that I write and leave
there. when I land it will be
sent on to you.

Now don't worry about me
for I am going to write as often
as possible. And you please do
the same

will be sure and send my
correct address as soon as

ARMY AND NAVY

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

"WITH THE CONGRESS"



I arrive in N.Y.

30 of us leave to gether
so dont be worried about my
traveling

Thank for the money also the
Birth Certificate as I was afraid
I would not get it in time and
we here to show it

my insurance is made out
to you mother it is for \$10,000.
It took so much trouble to
make it out to Anna and
was against military rules to
have it to any one but Parent
Brother or Sister so could not
do as you wished.

You will receive notice of this
insurance so be careful of it
and do not lose.

You spoke of military ruling
being severe I dont think they
are severe enough. In the
Army one is placed on this
honor and it makes it much
better as one is more satisfied



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



7

must close as I have a bit
of washing and packing to do
My iron is all right and much
cheaper than the ones I could
buy here.

Hoping you are all well as
it leave me.

This letter contains more
or less personal matter so
do not let any one read.

I am as ever your loving
daughter

Nettie —
my address will be

Miss Nettie Liberty Lib. F.H.C.

Bose Hospital

Camp Grant

Illinois

until you hear different
It might be such a thing that
we will not leave for a couple
of weeks we can't tell

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME _____



Oct. 23 - 1915.

Geo. S. Irby

Dear Parents.

Well I am landed safely in another place; we stayed in the last place just one week & talk about our march weather and rain - well it has nothing on this climate here. I have waded through mud up to my boot tops all the time enjoying it. This is a wonderful place. The scenery is something magnificent, some of the most wonderful ~~scenery~~ ^{scenery} we went through one that was built 400 B.C. Also where ~~Irby~~ ^{Irby} held his prisoners of war. How is every thing at home? I suppose you are preparing to husk corn.

Hasnt received any mail but am hoping for some any time. They are very busy. I never knew that

one person could do so much in so short a
time as it is done over here & Our boys are
being well taken care of. This hospital here is
even better than most of the hospitals in
the states; every thing is for the comfort of the
patient & you people in the states ask of ^{the} ~~you~~
Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. are helping over here. If
it were not for them I am afraid most of us
would ^{be} left stranded many times & they sure make
life pleasant for us. The only thing we need is
more help from the Red Cross & I had a very pleasant
voyage over here & only a little rough ^{one} ~~one~~ night &
some of the most wonderful moon light nights and
those beautiful morning sun rises &

we are in Saranac, France. at present don't know
for how long - as our stay is ~~indefinite~~ ^{indefinite} & But
hope we stay here as it is such a pleasant
place to be &

Believe and write often even if you don't.



NAME _____

19

hear from me - as letters are just like xmas presents to us over here x

I can still say a good word for the army in regards to eating we have the most wonderful meals -

Our menu for yesterday was

Breakfast.
Pan cakes -
Oat meal -

Jam -
Bread Butter
Coffee

Dinner
Potatoes
Veal loaf
Salad: Endive
Bean. Gravy - Rice.
Butter
Coffee cake -
Tea -

Supper

Fresh fish
Salad. Tomato
potatoes
apple pie
Coffee -

B. B. -

now this is only for one day
so you see we are not starving by any means -

menu in

The boys that any patient received just about the
same thing x

Hoping this reaches you safely. With Best
regards to every one x

I remain

Your loving daughter,

Nellie Dorothy Dale

Army Nurse Corps

U.S. Base Hospital

Unit 63-

H-E-7-

Via New York

they tell me it will be hereabouts
about the middle of march -

How is thing at home. Did
any of you people get the
influenza? I hope not - for I
have been enough of that
stuff. to last me for ever -

I wish you could tell me of
the celebration we had of
the rich world peace victory
They come in the mass
about noon and hold the cup
now if you see Lewis.
Cherish your kinmost thoughts
thine ever certainly - Charles

Boston Mass

Savannah France
Dear Father and Mother
Nov 16-75

Will take a few moments to
write you, our mother old. so
please excuse for writing
This is the most beautiful
country I have ever seen
The houses are ^{so} pleasant
just like it was the middle
of the summer. It does not
seem possible that this could
look so prosperous as they
do for the ground had be
lives covered of ice our this
a.m. They have just put in
a new crop of wheat and

some of the poor fellows so sick they
didn't know whether they were dead or
alive sat up in bed and cheered - No
one will ever realize except those who have
gone through with the hellish war what
it has done to the world -

There was a rumor spread around
that we were going back to the Dear old
U.S.A. and take charge of a hospital in
Washington D.C. So you see how happy
we all will be if this turns out to be true

They have ~~so~~ ~~gone~~ been told
around here that all wounded boys were
to be taken back to the U.S.A. first and
this would be done in the next three
months -

I haven't received any mail as yet but
hope to in the near future Am
anxious to hear how every thing is
at home

I go for a long walk every day so
that I can get an idea of this

from hair being on end -
Another evening scene is to
go down to the village in
market day which is very nice
and watch them sell their
wares - (they come for miles
around - they all wear wooden
shoes - I haven't seen a pair of
leather shoes since I been
here -
well as my time is short I
must close for this time
wishing you a pleasant
Xmas and a happy new
year
Yours as ever your loving
Dantelette Helter

beautiful country in daily
average is about 70 miles a
day - It does not seem possible
that there has gone 3 years -
the time flies so rapidly when
one is busy -

I certainly wish you could hear
the stories of these hop - when they
all get started grow over the
top they get so excited it is
amazing to watch the expression
on their faces -

Every night about 6 o'clock
they get started and the
stories they tell would make

Nettie Dorothy Dele
Army Nurse Corps
US Base Hospital
unit 63-

Via New York A.P.O. 701-

American Expeditionary Forces.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME _____



19

Dear father & mother
your letter of the 26 Dec
which is the second letter
that I have received since
my arrival over here
am enjoying very good health
at present. Have felt very good
along except on the way over
here. You ask if I had the flu.
well I should say I did 3 times
that on time but came on
the way over here. Oh my
our boat was just stuck

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME _____



with a thousand sick at ² one time maybe you think we didnt work trying to take care of them. ¹⁹

Am surly glad that you both have escaped this far I was nearly carried sick when I didnt receive any word and knowing it was all over the states.

It wasnt so bad over here as at home. I did not prove so fable.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME _____



3.

19

You say you haven't found where
I am located am just about
12 miles from St Nazaire
20 from Nantes.

am working pretty hard
at present am in the
amputation ward. some
of them have 8 + 10 dressing
and these are dressed every
day. I haven't come to taking
care of 72. amputation
cases there is some work

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME _____



19

to be done. Haven't met any
one I knew for quite a while
meet them from all
around Illinois but none from
Champaign. Was sorry to hear
of all the deaths - Poor Mrs
Sommer surely must feel
bad. losing both her husband
& son. One of the top. just
helped another get in the
wheel chair both have
their legs amputated.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME

5



19

one is on crutches pushing
the other in the chair
it seem so funny to see
a one armed yellow
helping one who has lost
both of them they look
after one another like a
mother of a large family
of children. There a nurse
do you hear from any one.
Surely had my only
marine come down will

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME

6



19

the snuffs now we are in
quarantine all of them were
supposed to go back home
this week now won't get to
go before three weeks.

sure feel sorry for them because
they are so anxious to get back
and to work. Haven't any
sourmilk as yet but hope
to get some before coming
back. Yesterday had a little
snow for about 15 min,
which is the first thing
that looked like home.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME _____

7



19

since leaving. Today it is
quite cold. This is the second
cold spell since our arrival.
Don't remember whether I
told you or not what boat
we came over on it was
the same one that brought
the President. Sure is a
wonderful boat. They are
sending them home by the
thousands. Hope to be there
soon myself. Am rather
anxious to get back

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME:



19

Haven't heard a word from
sister or either of the boys.
in fact no mail at all
after my first departure.

Am waiting for dinner have
plenty to do but that I
would rest a moment &
write you folks.

would like to see the
turkey and also those potatoes
George sent. More than seeing
would like a few to eat.
must close & write later
Love your daughter.

Mattie Donnelly Inle A.N.C.

US Base Hospital 63

A.P.O 7015

Savenay.

France

A.E. 7.

Camp Hospital 109.
Apr 17-1919.

Dear Parents.

I³ tomorrow feel my self
getting real old. receive the money
the 14. now I think that is making
real good time. was going to write
some. but that I would wait until
I got them cashed to see if it was
all right. not a bit of trouble didn't
even have to be identified. Some come
in handy. Have all my traveling debt
paid. and plenty left over. think
I shall take another trip to Paris
must tell you. my souvenir hunting
is begining to bear fruit. Have an
American helmet that a local
17. year old wore over the top of
trench - a German trench flash
light and a German coat buttons
have the promise of a map but
am not sure of it.

I received your letter in just 15
day. now I think that it is making
wonderful times. How are things going
back there. my how I should love
to get back even just for a few
hours. what is my shame to do, with
the children has to some one taking
care of them? - not much mail this
week. Only your letter but look for
some any day. Am getting the news
right along so that helps a great
deal. The girls I think are going to
give me a fair. you know me.
For suspecting things they seem
rather shy and keep wanting to
know what I am going to be doing
Friday. right so expect a little party.
Not much news. the same old
thing no working. only have 3 bed
patients in our ward. and they
are arm an. prisoners and not
being able to understand them
of course don't do only what is

necessary for their due advantage
of not being able to understand.

They are very nice patients and very
grateful for what we do for them.
How are the labor questions coming
from all reports they are quite serious.

I wish I could step in for a nice
home cooked meal and a glass.

Suppose the trees are all in bloom.
The grass nice and green. It has
been raining ever since we came
back from Italy. And quite cold at
Wheatfield the other day. I am froze a
little. Must close my eyes and go to
a 70 mile drive this afternoon through
this pretty country. Shall tell you more
about it after getting back
with Tom. Love as ever you
Lorri, I am your nettie

P.S. Am sending a package home
of a few little things that I have
collected and been given. Please save
them for me until I get home as
I want them.

- N. D. Isle A.N.C.

Camp Hospital 109.

A.P.O. 7351

A.E.F.

May 11
Mother's Day

Dear Mother

am waiting orders to go to
Brest. where we will be ordered
home expect to be there in
2 weeks. Certainly will be glad
am getting quite tired of this
army life. Left our base the
1 of the month - have been here
in Vannes ever since. A very
fritty place a quaint old
Brittany town. on sundy after
noon it is quite a treat to go
down the street an see them
in their old costumes.

expect to leave here tomorrow
spent 4 days to a week in
Brest then to N.Y. where
it takes you 2-3 weeks
to get our discharge

2.

How goes the thing at home,
no man in quite a while but
will soon be back. where we
can get our man in a few days.

This is mothers-day. all people
in the H. F. Z. are supposed to
write their mothers. No news so
letters will be short.

will be home soon and let
do all which will be better than
writing.

Loveing your Daughter.

~~with~~

ARMY NURSE CORPS

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON

BOOK 25 PAGE 5

With the approval of the Secretary of War,

AUGUST 7, 1918.

NETTIE DOROTHY IRLE

of ----- CHAMPAIGN ----- ILLINOIS -----

Reserve Nurse, Army Nurse Corps, is hereby assigned to active service in the military establishment, and will enter upon her duties after taking the oath prescribed by Section 1757 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

L. B. Baldwin
L. B. Baldwin
Lt. Col., M.C.M.A.
For the Surgeon General, U. S. Army.

Deth - 6-21-70

Oath of Office taken

AUG 12 1918

Filed in S. G. O.