

FALL NIGHTS IN CAMP COMPARE WITH DULUTH

Letters From Sammies to Backers Tell of Life and Conditions in Cody.

The problem of how to write to some one whom you know by name only is being solved by the Sammies and their backers. George M. Zimmerman, a member of Company A, Third Infantry, Minnesota National guard, with quarters at Camp Cody, encloses a picture of his squad in a letter to his Sammy Backer, John J. Moe of the West End. Zimmerman implies in his letter that he would like to see what kind of a looking fellow Mr. Moe is, and this way get acquainted right.

Frankness and trust in the Sammy Backer is expressed in the letters that the backers have received. Many of the letters contain descriptions of camp conditions, and give the backer a personal insight into camp life.

Letter from John A. Chalmers.
trenches as enemies, with shell craters dug all over the terrain, covered trenches to be searched out, and barb wire entanglements to hinder the attack. All these details were worked out and placed and then their full significance appreciated when the men would charge through them. Miles of barb wire was entangled along the front line trenches, and with all its jungle-like appearance when completed, yet it is stretched systematically along lines which actual conditions have proved both most efficient and easiest of laying under fire.

Captain Paul Chaffaux of the French army, several times wounded on the western front, has been assigned to Fort Snelling as a member of the instruction staff. Trench digging and building in all its phases is therefore possible according to methods used abroad as late as last July and August. Bulletins from Washington issued since the first training camp was in progress, are being used by the present students, on bayonet, grenade and trench work.

"Over the Top."

While "over the top" suggests Appreciation of a package of "smokes" is expressed in a letter received by J. T. Rutz from his Sammy, John A. Chalmers at Camp Cody. "I received your package, for which I express my sincere thanks. It shows that you do not forget us boys." Chalmers then gives a minute description of the sandstorms and the climate of Mexico. "We are having another sandstorm just now, and I had to buy a pair of goggles for safety," he writes. "We are sweating 12 or 14 hours a day, but we are getting lots of good grub now, so I will probably be able to keep it up."

Fred Zahnol Feels at Home.

Fred Zahnol of Superior, a member of the field artillery at Camp Cody, give his backer, A. E. Batsford, an interesting account of happenings at the camp, and introduces himself to his backer. Part of the letter follows: "This is not my first experience in army life. I was formerly an officer in the Swiss army, and I hope to benefit by my former experience in my present life."

"We arrived at Deming, a small town of 2,000 people, at noon Aug. 31. We found the country very sandy and dry. The only bad feature is the frequent sandstorms, which are far from welcome. Each company has its individual mess hall. All are electrically lighted. As a whole, everything is very fine."

Sam Ellis Writes of Climate.

"The weather is ideal down here" writes Sam Ellis of the medical department to his Sammy Backer. "A fellow can sleep nicely at night with two blankets, an overcoat and a poncho over him. And with that big moon, a fellow can nearly imagine himself in Duluth on some fall night."

"The sick list is falling off every day now that the fellows are getting more acclimated, and so we (the medical corps) are not so terribly busy. Our chaplain, Ramslow, is a dandy fellow and he surely has won a home in the hearts of the men. They all stand by him."

Thomas Toben Appreciates "Y."

Appreciation of the work that the Y. M. C. A. is doing for the boys is expressed in a letter sent by Thomas Tobin of the infantry to his backer. "The boys here all have a pretty good time. We have moving pictures of some kind in the Y. M. C. A. nearly every night and all the boys enjoy it." Tobin tells of the camp surroundings. "Deming is not a bad town either. It puts me in mind of an old western town that you read about in one of those wild west magazines. They have about four or five moving picture shows, and they have a dance for each regiment of soldiers every Saturday night."

"There is a rumor here that our regiment is going to California, because they cannot find any target range for our cannons. I wouldn't mind it a bit if they would, because they say this place is the hell-hole of the earth, and I believe it."

Sergt. Wahlberg Wants News Tribune.

"Say, Dan, that sure would be fine to get the News Tribune down here and to read the news and find out what's going on in good old Minnesota," writes Sergt. J. J. Wahlberg to his Sammy Backer, Dan Cussick of Woodland. "You sure can bet I will enjoy getting that Duluth paper."

Reinhold Mettner Writes W. S. Keller.

"The way things look, we will be well taken care of after they get things running in good shape, although they seem to be short of most everything right now," writes Reinhold C. Mettner of the infantry stationed at Camp Dodge to his Sammy Backer, W. S. Keller. "This is some city of barracks. They have about 23,000 men here now."