

# Kansas Memory



## William Lloyd Lamb to family

### Section 13, Pages 361 - 386

Here are letters written by William (Bill) Lloyd Lamb to his family while he served in the Korean War. Lamb, a member of the United States Army, Company G, 180 Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, was a recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart. A newspaper article published in The Blue Rapids Times, September 18, 1952, provides details of the heroic act, which resulted in Lamb receiving the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Additional Korean War letters written by William Lloyd Lamb are available to read, see Kansas Memory item 306850.

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# Kansas Memory



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HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

William Lloyd Lamb to family

know what the right hand is doing.  
Well I guess this will be all.

Love  
Bill

# Kansas Memory



## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea Oct 16

Dear Father

Oct half over already, still on this wind swept hill. Getting pretty chilly already over here. Be snowing before we know it and the Koreans claim it gets 6 foot deep or more so have a lot to look forward too.

Don't know when I will get this letter mailed, hasn't any envelopes left because I used up all the envelopes I saved and never got any letters with any in it for a couple days. Wrote a lot more now, sit by till around 3:00 than sleep till around 10:30 or eleven in the morning. Had a little activity this morning. A North Korean wounded up this morning and gave up to one of the boys. Pits and stuff. Can see why they give up. We sleep them penned down so in the day time they don't dare to move very much, if we see them we call in arty or most anything else we can muster so it must be pretty harassing.

Put out now not a sound coming in all platoons & patrols report negative. Did I ever tell you our CO was a negro black as the ace of spades a Lt from New York, seems alright but I don't know don't trust any of them anymore they can't be lead they have to be driven to do something. As long as they make plenty of noise they are happy but put one of them up and most anything can and will happen.

Had a good laugh at two of them the other night. We have two who stutter R.A.B. Richardson & T.F. Taylor. They were back at our rear area where Fletcher's war ammo dump etc are at. About 9 o'clock they started up the road and it was challenged by the guard and Oh my near one could get out the password all they could say was D.D. Don't shoot. But that is not the best part, you should of heard them telling about at the next evening, a regular riot.

The whole have been sounding our ass up one side and down the other, got a hatchet set off, got up barb wire, put out mines, dug trenches. Division commander was up today General Raffner, a two starred wimp, a little better than Sinder who I have written about, what do you think of this lot?

No excuse sir, General.

Promotion last went in this morning don't know if I made it or not but doesn't matter, too much only 5 months left to serve anyway unless the Army talks the Army to increase the term of service seems like the Army always gets shafted one way or another.

This combat pay gets my goat the way it is being worked any. Have to actually be shot at 6 days out of a month to draw it.

All don't feel like writing but nothing else to do so guess I'll go on for a while.

What should all be up by now. How is the corn turning out or is all picked and spent. Let's see I was home last year and picked corn on my delayed route, seems ages ago doesn't it. I suppose the picker runs alright yet shouldn't wear out yet. Guess you picked quite a bit last fall. How is the old Ford running going to be needing it in a couple months. Better get it in top notch condition. Haven't touched a steering wheel since we drove out to the airport in Omaha.

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Dal Reed hasn't grown up yet has he probably slow down a shoshi fit now. Do its Ralph's still run the produce station or does someone else

Going to have to take a look or some thing stick all over tonight, at least have a change of clothes. Wool long Johns don't help much either.

Needn't worry about bring some one women just a writing a postcard that I picked up at a Legion Lodge at Seattle, when we sailed for Japan, Billie is going to misses school at the University of Washington about to graduate, besides she is engaged to a Maine boy and for a dough boy to beat his time, etc.

Hope the holds in this place does not get you to mixed up, only thing around to write on tonight, except C ration toilet paper.

I think what else is there to write about. Got a letter from Aunt Emma couple days ago, didn't have much to say. Just having hard times with cattle sickness and don't know what else.

1030 wrote about 4½ hours to finish this letter in. Maybe write to somebody else.

Won't get so much sleep tonight have to see the Major in the morning and make some plans on using a helicopter to fly in supply. our rear supply point is about 3 miles by KSC backs. Be almost impossible this winter to get a good supply worked out.

The engineers are working on a couple roads but they foot around and waste time, most of the time blowing out our road with commo. Had about 30 lines together the other day and they must have set a C-40 right under it, blew them all up anyway didn't have any communication all day.

One more line and I'll sign off.

Love

Bell

P.S. Hope I find an envelope for this

Love

Bell

Finally found and envelope it was at the bottom of my playing bag so it might smell of just a little but don't mind that.

Love

Bell

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea Oct 18

Dear Folks.

Tell how are you the evening. Sure myself not much news or any thing else to report.

Our second platoon got hit hard by artillery this afternoon soon 25 rounds killed one Tatusa wounded a couple others. Sure tell when the 45th hits the line all hell breaks loose. Everything is quit then we come around and start raising Cain and they start shooting back and some body gets hurt.

If ever is everybody there, well I hope you people take care of yourself no use getting sick or marrying just don't forget I am still in the army and you know the army by now. no holds barred.

Talk is to change rotation to 48 points just hope I make it before

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

they do change it. Sure seems  
the Army has a hard time deciding  
how to work its system, once they  
started rotating at 6 months then  
36 points at 4 points a month then  
they put up a varying earned points so  
the artillery would rotate faster than  
the infantryman. Now they are thinking  
of adding 12 points to really test a mans  
patience &  
Can all fucked I imagine so I'll  
sign off, love Bill.

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea Oct 18 or 19 might even be the 20th

It is Sunday I know because Chaplain said we have Catholic mass here, at the Company C.P. tomorrow at one o'clock for 3 platoons. We at other platoon the next day because it is a little far away.

There no, lets write that better. Have no news as our horseboys say. Have 3 Song, Lee, and Happy. Happy has been with us ever since we received the Cav. Div. 18 years old now and a smart lad can read and understand English, we use him as an interpreter, can't even spell it now, helps honcoo Korean laborers we use get things to our Native personnel. He is carrying my cabin around guess I will have to get my M-1 back. Will snap a couple pictures of him and send them on. Song can understand English but can't read it. guess he is 16 years old just now in the Company. a swell kid Ol' man boy all the way. Lee is a most lascivious which is all he can be called

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another officers boy. Let see what  
can & say about them. But it mads  
with them, often pay them and they wait  
on me clean my weapon wash my clothes  
and anything else I might have them  
do. Haven't got there to tie my shoes  
yet.

Rotation, "have no" either don't know  
when that will happen, sweating it out,  
list suppose to be down in a couple days  
God only knows who will be on it.  
Missed the last one for some unknown  
reason oldest men in the company so  
just about in the Bath - too I guess, could  
get relieved and go back to service & but  
would go crazy if I had to stay there so  
I stay here with the boys besides that  
it's combat rego. So John is riding us  
like he wonder how long that will last  
one hang over and that will be all.

I speak of hangovers hasn't had one  
since the night before we left to come up  
here. Mess Sgt Maryland says Sgt had our whiske  
ration, only 3 days in the company anyway, stands  
beer & whiskey until 2:00 then went to the  
butcher and had one of the biggest best

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

lunches, pork chops, fried potatoes, in onions  
fried eggs, and bread, pretty good bread, have  
a good bunch of beans in the 45th Div.  
ooh that was good. And here I am eating  
C rations, on top of that it is beef stew.  
By the way its 12:30 now, shucks I don't  
know what to scrub now.

I guess that I'll stop

rotation more skosh  
Bill

P. S.

Don't know why I try to write  
Korean for should be skosh meaning  
small, a little etc.

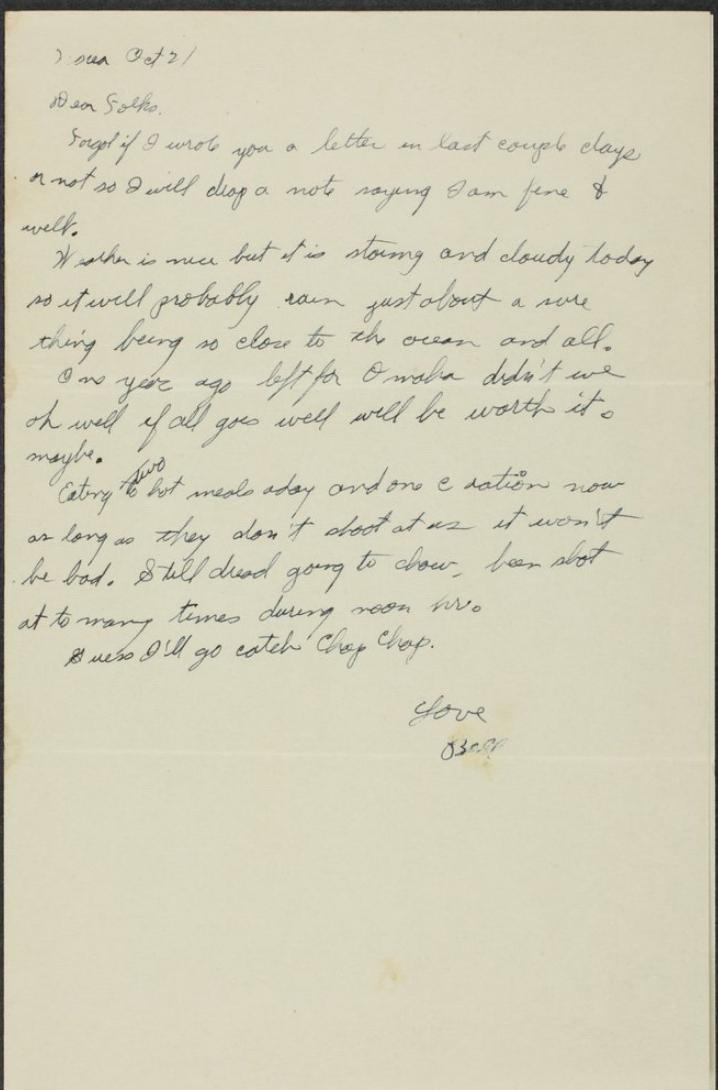
rotation more skosh  
Bill

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family



# Kansas Memory



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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea 12:30 PM

Dear folks

And another pay day in Korea. You know I never figured I'd be this long in Korea to get paid so often. But it hasn't been too bad yet but I think the worst is yet to come, no peace settlement, and spring just around the corner, a few floating clouds to keep the temperature down but the sun is hot when it comes out. In a way I hate to see warm weather come, because these hills will be hard to climb with the sun beating down on your back. And you know all valleys are covered with rice gathering and when the frost leaves there won't be any bottom to them. The goats run up to their knees supply will be a problem I imagine more so than in the winter, roads will sink out of sight or just plain cave off the mountains. After that wreck I don't even like to get on a truck.

Some of the hills will be just about

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unbearable from the smell, dead goats and the winter's waste will just about drive a person off if the live ones don't. Still 255 has goats on top of goats.

We are going to a more active area of the front anyway that is the rumors. With 2 sqds on night ambushes every night there are 9 squads so we will have a night or two off and just stand guard alright.

The rumor has it that Sept 1 Oct drafted of 50 will leave the Div by Apr. 15. So that will leave room for replacement and maybe I'll be able to gain a rank. Hope so hate to come home still a Cpl, I just hope I am home by next Christmas that is the limit I am giving myself to stay here.

I suppose field work will be in full swing by now. Hope we don't get a late cold snap when we move on here.

Gent started wed didn't it, Easter is not far off now, you know where I was last Easter don't you, came a long ways since that day, wonder if it is worth it all.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

I seem to be writing a longer war  
story than usual but I am just writing  
& dreaming to day. A nice day to build castles  
in the air. Only place level enough over here  
to build one "Ha". I guess we might have  
inspection & get tomorrow & Sunday off hope  
so my horses need a rest, after going up the  
hill twice a day to work. have to come down  
for dinner than go back up again.

I guess I'll sign off now - maybe add more  
tonight

Bill

P.S. 3:30 got paid \$35 have to pay for beer  
so won't have to much left 13 & a can. It  
has turned a little hazy so it has  
cooled off a little. I hope I get a package  
tonight about starved again, 4 of us in  
this house and a box goes no where after  
dividing up, I guess I'll sign off for good  
now. There is a one dollar in script I'll  
send you as a souvenir

Bill

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea. 11

Dear Folks

A little late tonight 2 o'clock in the morning. Its 60°  
feet like writing early and still don't feel like writing  
to much. This is stationary from Maxine, still haven't  
written to her for the package I got, get around to  
it one of these days. I got a big package from you  
today, peanut brittle, cocoanut nuggets etc.

I don't imagine this letter will be very long  
not much doing. The Chinks are just across the  
valley on the next range of mountains, see them  
quite often. In trenches, we have picked a few  
off with sniper rifles.

The wind came up today, so it is cold standing  
guard tonight, not to cold, but the wind goes right  
through a person. Have a full moon all night now  
bright as day outside. We get relieved at the 17  
so a happy day, I guess, sure would like a night's  
sleep. get around 7 hrs sleep during the day but doesn't  
do much good seems like.

This week I don't need anything, how is my allot-  
ment coming to the bank. I guess you know you can  
spend it if you need it. Dad could use some of shop  
tools.

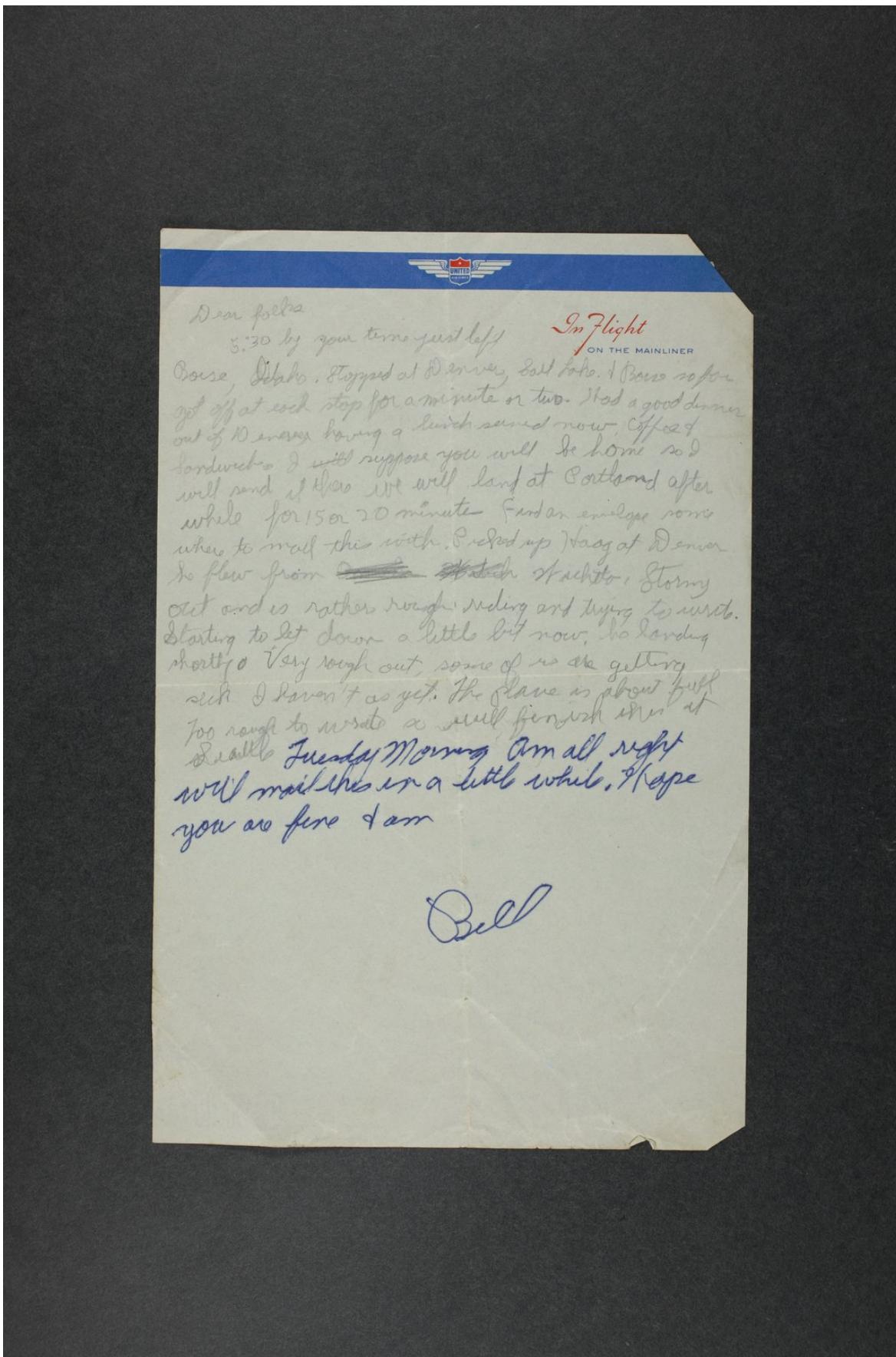
Signing off  


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William Lloyd Lamb to family



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William Lloyd Lamb to family



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Dear Mother & Dad  
Changed holes today. Had to dig  
another one and didn't get it  
finished so am writing with two  
others and don't have much room  
This will be just a note till  
I get more room.  
Had 3 letters from you  
(5, 6, 7) - dated One from P. Novak  
& one from P. Syllis  
Just too cramped  
so Love  
Bill

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear Mother & Dad Fri. 4, 1952  
I suppose you will get two letters at once or will have missed a couple days. can't seem to get organized here for some reason.  
It is afternoon, 3:00. Have our hatch about finished shored and washed up. so am taking a break.  
I guess we are going up one of the highest hills in Kona tomorrow, 400 meters high, and dig fighting holes.  
This paper I got from Aunt Juba have to drop her a line soon. Made out application for money order to send to Phyllis and have her send me a camera & a bunch of film. \$40.00 should be enough just to get our PX rations 3 candy bars & pack of cigarettes for a while.  
Trying to storm out, hope it don't, Hatch is not to water tight.  
Can't seem to think of anything to write about this afternoon so will quit for now.  
  
Bill  
P.S. Snowing pretty hard now, be a yard deep by morning  
Bill

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear Folks

Thursday night. Have Kp tomorrow  
3 barracks of casuals pull it probal<sup>g</sup> get  
off about 6:00 did longt<sup>g</sup> arg was.  
Walk pass last night got in at 2 got  
up at 6 for breakfast went back to sleep  
all noon. Seen a von movie this afternoon  
Don't know when we will ship out yet  
Hope we stay here over the week end.  
Seen the 7<sup>th</sup> arrison dog from  
Bogaloo yesterday talked with him  
a minute.

Beautiful scenery around here, the dog  
houses going up the steep hills and  
the hills are stony in Seattle. Might  
be sun dog go over by plane just beyond  
on circumstances I guess  
Can't think of anything to say  
right now, hope you are well and not  
working to hard  
Hofford \$50 bucks so will send some home

Bill

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear mother & Dad

Sunday evening. They are expecting a  
push here the 24 or 25 at night  
that is so we will be standing 100%  
guard up here on the hill.

Got 2 letters from you, one from  
aunt Emily, Kuchlerman, Emil Shalla  
Rearden, Wacley, and Legion  
post at Irving.

Emil Shalla sent 2 dollars, no  
place to spend it.

None CP guard, he warmy they  
have a gas store.

Have to dig supplementary holes  
to fight from in case the Chunks  
attack us. We get around 10 hrs of  
sleep ~~so~~ so as long as it stays  
peaceful we will stay in good  
shape, probably get fat.

Can't hardly keep letters and  
cards, they get damp and moldy

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

So I burn them in a day or 2, too keep them out of my way  
Don't suppose I'll be able to answer all of them right away  
Haven't heard any news what's going on over here, all we know is what we see. Airplanes were strafing the enemy in front this afternoon

The Chinese have 3 regiments out in front of us. They have been been blasting them day and night with artillery & mortar, hope it does some good

You are probably getting tired deciphering this letter

Bill

# Kansas Memory



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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear Folks

Tuesday night 2:00 Got hooked for Charge of Quartermaster tonight from 12 to 6. ~~I~~ I will spend a little time writing to you. Slept from 8 to 12 so don't feel too bad probably won't feel too good by tomorrow morning. A sergeant here giving us a rough time tonight drink or two to much I guess.

Well our shipping orders came down today for Monday noon so time is running short on us. Guess we will get a pass tomorrow at 2:00 don't know for sure yet. Was hoping for one tonight but had to work. Getting a headache now smoking to much I guess.

How cold has it been at home. It is raining here now and pretty chilly. It froze here Thursday morning a little I have a picture of 8 or 9 of us taken at a tavern well send it home as soon as I find a piece of card board and paper. It was taken Thursday night about 11:00

I received 4 letters today from you were glad to hear again forgot the dates on them now, one was from Dad written Sunday I guess. Wondering how corn picking is coming along told Dad to be careful. I can't seem to think of anything to write, guess there is plenty going on but seems uninteresting after you do it for a while. ~~It was to me anyway~~

Not much going on in town few things what you can dance & drink here have a good time cheap.

Guess I will have to close can't think straight anymore got 2/3 his duty left. guess I will be able to sleep tomorrow?

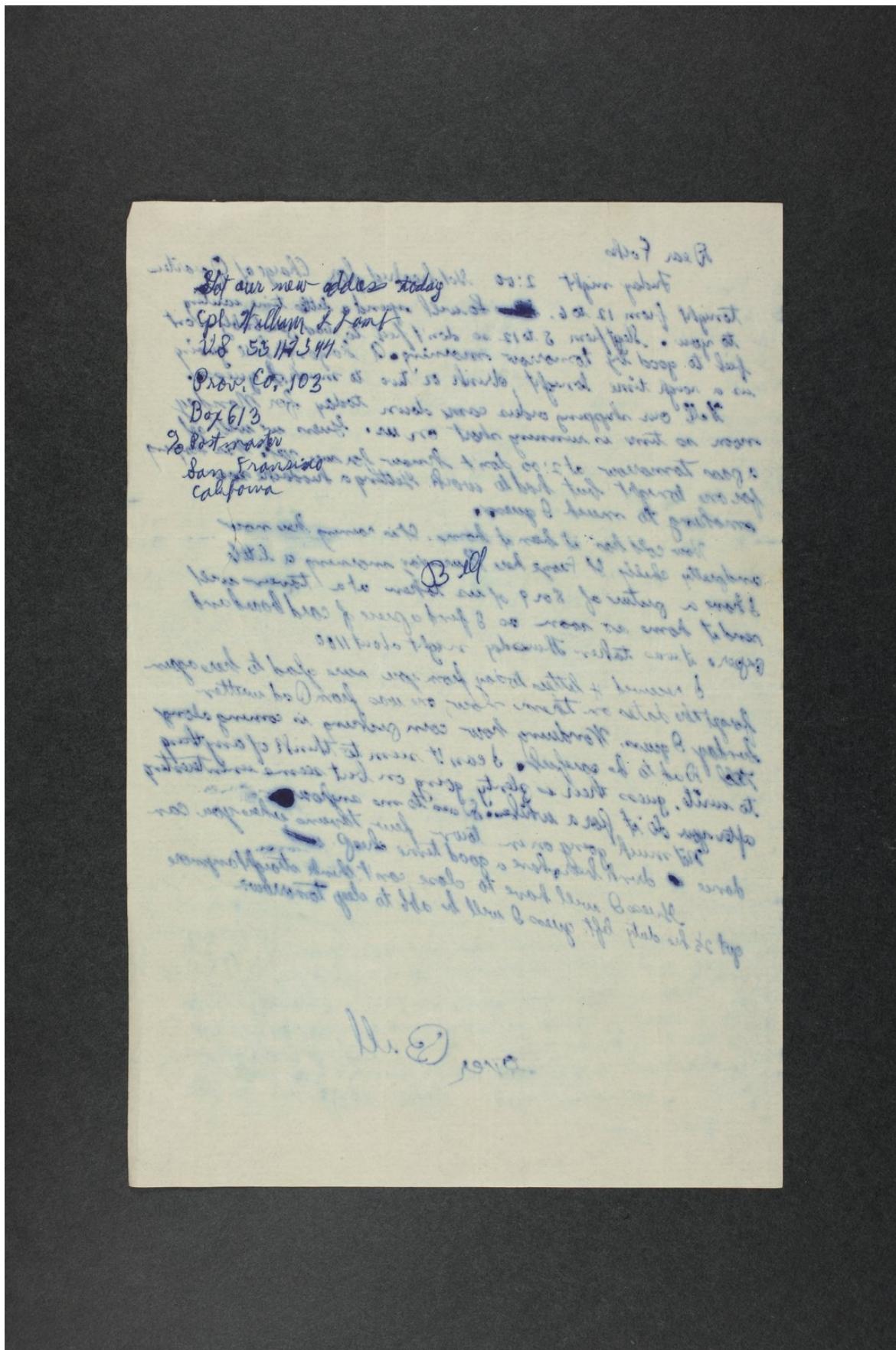
Bill  
over

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family



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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Run out of blue paper, 330 now, sending a couple  
cards along too. The platoon Sgt has been giving  
me a hard time on account of a fellow in  
my squad, I do not like the platoon to well  
have half a notion to ask for a transfer.  
and carry the AR again, we're getting disgruntled  
I guess I'll sign off now for today.

Dill.

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear Mother & Dad,

I wrote to Grandparents and wasn't going to write to you but got 7 letters 5 from you & from Emilie Jr. from A Krotoszyn, this evening.

Got our beer ration 3 cans sure tastes good. we get plenty of coffee too. Got our pt rations, 4 bars 2 packs of cig beer is 15¢ rest is free.

Haven't anything to write on so probably be hard to read, have to find a board I guess.

I guess I haven't told you our tactical situation, we are in a blocking position used to stop the enemy or move up and reinforce a battery group.

Told of our patrol in grandmas letter it is a wonder we weren't wiped out, I think. We were sure tired out after it was over. There was a short fire fight on our right about 5:30 PM. don't know what about probably a patrol of Chunks.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Don't know what will go on  
Christmas day. Try to get to mass.  
Beer is starting to come out guess  
I'll get rid of it and sleep till 11:00  
when I go on guard. 7:30 now.

Bill

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear Folks,

Well good evening how are you  
I am pretty good, had a busy but easy  
day today. Not very many inspections at  
all.

Not going to write much down to a thing  
to write about. Just the ordinary army life is all.  
Here it pretty easy Captain up I won't  
have to go out to the field any more any  
way while I am here in reserve.

Rumor is pretty hot we will go up next  
week some time, hope not but I am still  
in the Army so I guess I will have to go.

Well Ma & Pa I guess this is all for today.

Yours  
Bill

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## William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear folks.

This one came Friday P.M. Both these letters  
came together in one envelope.

Five now been a little hectic only have one  
jeep and one truck in the area now, rather in the  
company when we are suppose to have 4 jeeps and two  
trucks. Mass Sgt needs a vehicle than the supply Sgt  
than the wallet off or the Captain just not enough  
whales to go around. Never get a ride myself. is the hell  
of it. Should went to Blythe tonight I guess. I hope  
she has had the negatives developed and sent  
back over. Bibbo want photographs, by the way that  
is his name, a girl and a cook, from Boston, there is or  
was about a dozen boys from Mass. Newton is his home.

Need a shower guess I'll go up after while  
and wash off a little slime. After supper now, company  
won't in yet but it will be pretty soon. Had a little  
beer party tonight. We sell beer 3 cans 50¢ cost us  
about 42¢ for 3 cans so even so often we sell  
beer a beer party and give it away with the profit  
tonight we had it because 10 boys are rotating home  
and we had about \$18.00 profit.

That is ever body doing there at home. Haven't  
much else to write about so will sign off.

Daddy didn't let Blo. read this one. Said "Love  
she grabbed for it, but he said, no, that's personal  
to me." (Daddy that is.) Ha. Daddy noticed Beer party & Del  
\$18.00 so he decided they didn't have to know everything. But that  
burned them up. You don't need to send this one to Emily either.