

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

Section 8, Pages 211 - 240

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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William Lloyd Lamb to family

to yourself.

I guess I'll go on P&O to Japan in a couple weeks, if I can I'll call home don't know how or when, we will see.

I bet you are still wondering, can't you, I've got your last letter fast & ostriched 14 & I got it the 19 just five days.

Don't guess I have much news this evening so I'll sign off

Don't worry

Bill

Kansas Memory



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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Mon April 2/ 12 NOON

Dear Ma & Pa

Sorry to hear I caused you anxiety over not writing, been trying to write a letter at least every other day since we have been on line, I know it was four days when we were on the problem that I didn't write but I wrote soon as we got in. I imagine mail was held up on account of transportation too because the roads are next to impossible and just about every day you hear of a road coming down with a truck load of G.I.'s

Been getting to sleep till noon but Company commander, a new Lt. doesn't think we have done enough work so we have to start work at 8 not to bad as we get to work on our own positions so far.

I am going to get a roll of film ready and send to Phyllis now too.

Try to do better
Bill

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

As I letter today, 10, 11, 13, 13.
I have no time to write at present.
Miss Bell got a telegram from
Miss F. who gave me word to tell
you all about us now and our
wife, Alice, has been married and
has a son. Her name is John and he
is quite well now. She is now
living at Westport, Boston.
We imagine it will be
very difficult for her to get
the job she wants. She has
been here for a month now
and has had no work. She
is looking for a good
position of some kind.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Moore April 22

Dear Folks,

I sent a letter down with the
cooks this evening and if I don't
forget to mail them on at chow
in the morning you should get it
at once because the mail doesn't
go out till in the morning some
time.

I am going on the listening post at
7:30 or when ever it gets dark enough
not near as cold as last night but it
will be chilly by morning. A severe
nippy last night froze some. doubt if
it will tonight, cloudy doubt if it will
rain take a poncho just in case.

Never got any mail this morning
should get a bit tomorrow. Sent a roll
of film, last night 3 or 4 of yours truly
at this position one out of bumper window
haven't had a chance to take too
many, cloudy as much of the time.

I guess it is about time to move

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

out to the F.B. getting darker.
I am quite tonight not even much
artillery going out & think F company
got a few rounds tonight.

If today is 22nd I have
11 months to go, wish it would
hurry.

Funcham is lucky isn't he.
~~One~~ One year ago thinks started
young offensive, hope they don't
celebrate.

Well must close

Bell

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Kosci April 20 2 PM

Dear Folks

Well how are you I am pretty good today now
Was out two nights in a row without sleep, finally
let me sleep today got in at 6 and just woke
up. We were to take two squads and sweep
down two fingers, my squad and third squad
and drove bunches of these was any into a
a company that was set up to catch them
But the plan was changed all we done was
set up a perimeter and freeze all night again
my legs are starting to bother again

Tell what have you been doing
I imagine spring should be there finally
sure had a time of it hasn't you'd imagine
the oats are killed aren't they,

I don't have much to write, it is
cloudy now so will sign off

Bell

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

Dear folks Mora April 24 I guess

Trying to take it easy this morning. Been getting about 3 hrs sleep a night so am a little weary, put a stove on my bunker built a ~~fire~~ ~~and~~ fire and showed fuel a little better now. I got two letters and a carton of cansle from S. L. one letter from you one from Phyllis, blessed event only a month off isn't it I suppose you will be going there pretty soon won't you,

I got the pictures today to weren't to bad were they, the camera doesn't take very good landscape shot does it no where near look like the hills are. almost first of May doesn't seem possible does it winter about gone summer just around the corner. Been cold up here I imagine if we go into reserve it will be hot, have no idea how long we have to stay up here yet. Rumors floating around of moving reserve for anywhere from

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

30 to 60 days.
I don't much like to wait for
now.

Bell

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea April 25.

Dear Mother & Dad

Well another messy day in Korea - chilly showers clearing off a little now probably be a chilly night the way it acts now.

My squad occupies the 2nd squads position of the first platoon tonight, they are on an ambush tonight hope I don't catch one but my time is coming I know hope every thing will work out O.K. if I do. My platoon sgt. is not very good all he cares about is himself and he ~~he~~ doesn't care who he walks on either, and of course me just coming onto the platoon doesn't help matters any either, also he has a lot of pull with C.O. all he has to do is say the word and my ass is mud. maybe it will work out O.K.

Help matters a lot if I could get more rank but it is still frozen in the Far East probably stay that way a long time, and doesn't matter but the money would help a lot you know.

I guess I don't have much else to write about now so will close

Bill

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Hiowa April 26,

Dear Dad.

Well I hope this letter finds you O.K. and keepin busy no doubt you are, I guess it is about corn planting time there now, time is slipping by and I don't know where it went, days seem to go fast considering the hours we spent in, 18 to 20 hrs a day ever day but they manage to keep us busy so I guess that helps, might go slow out on guard anywhere from 5 to 10 hrs just depends on what is out front, got to thinking of home, fields, cattle etc, hard to talk sometimes.

Don't have the slightest idea how long I have to stay, 36 points we will be eligible to rotat but that doesn't mean we will rotat then, and they changed the amount we earn govt doesn't have enough money to rotat us. And I guess the peace talks are about fell through. And the Chinese are built up good enough to launch an attack with little or no warning, also had all winter to regroup, train recruit

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

No body wants peace but you & me
and people like us

Work is hard here never worked so
hard before and I think I done my
share, carry water half a mile ~~and~~ ^{up}
up and down these terrible hills, there
is no valley just up hill and down.
We go, I guess 500 yds up a hill to
chew and if the Lt wants to see us
squad leaders up a couple more yds.
everybody complains of legs and knees
bothering, I started to quiet down at
breakfast to cold, hard fried eggs and
ham, one good thing the coffee will eat
up anything your stomach can't, "Ha".
and I couldn't stand to stand and eat,

I suppose you have your aches &
pains to before coming shandpa should
be able to take it to hope every thing goes
well, also don't get sick while you are
backing.

I would like you to send me coffee
not to much, I got the last two quarts
time and didn't enjoy it to much but
sure wish we I had some now.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

We still have about 30 days up here yet
so I'll get it before we pull off I think.
That boy in my squad that I have
written about before is a problem, work
is not a problem it is doing the work
I have to make him do. I put him on
100% guard the other night me & my assist.
to watch him, about midnight he got
to making so much racket I had to let
him don't think it did a damn bit of
good. I would like to get him transferred
but so short of men, if I get rid of him
that much more guard on somebody
else, also daytime details.
Combat is not to bad nowadays such.
you know we are setting on a mow or
less permanent line but the patrols get
pretty harassing. I never figured I would
have every day such stuff as that, looking
at the enemy across the valley. "Oh yes"
we can see them occasionally, yellow
S----d's. I think we go out to
meet them again tomorrow night.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

If anything should happen to me,
give Olyles & John something, quarter or
a half of what I have personally, you'll
get my insurance.

Well dad hope you are enjoying
yourself maybe have a beer on me some-
time when you are in town,

you can let Mother read this if you
want to as if you could get away from it

Your Young Son
Bill.

P.S. Far at time I have ever been very
homesick.

Bill

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

Now April 29

Dear Pa & Ma.

Didnt write yesterday so I'll drop you a short letter today and it will be short too cause I don't have a thing to say today. Just a that I am fine and hope you are the same to.

Got a gallon bucket of cig. & cigars from Bob today, got way to send it I guess don't get busted up anyway. Has to mail him a letter, got a letter and then this package oh yes a package of socks to, way behind, no.

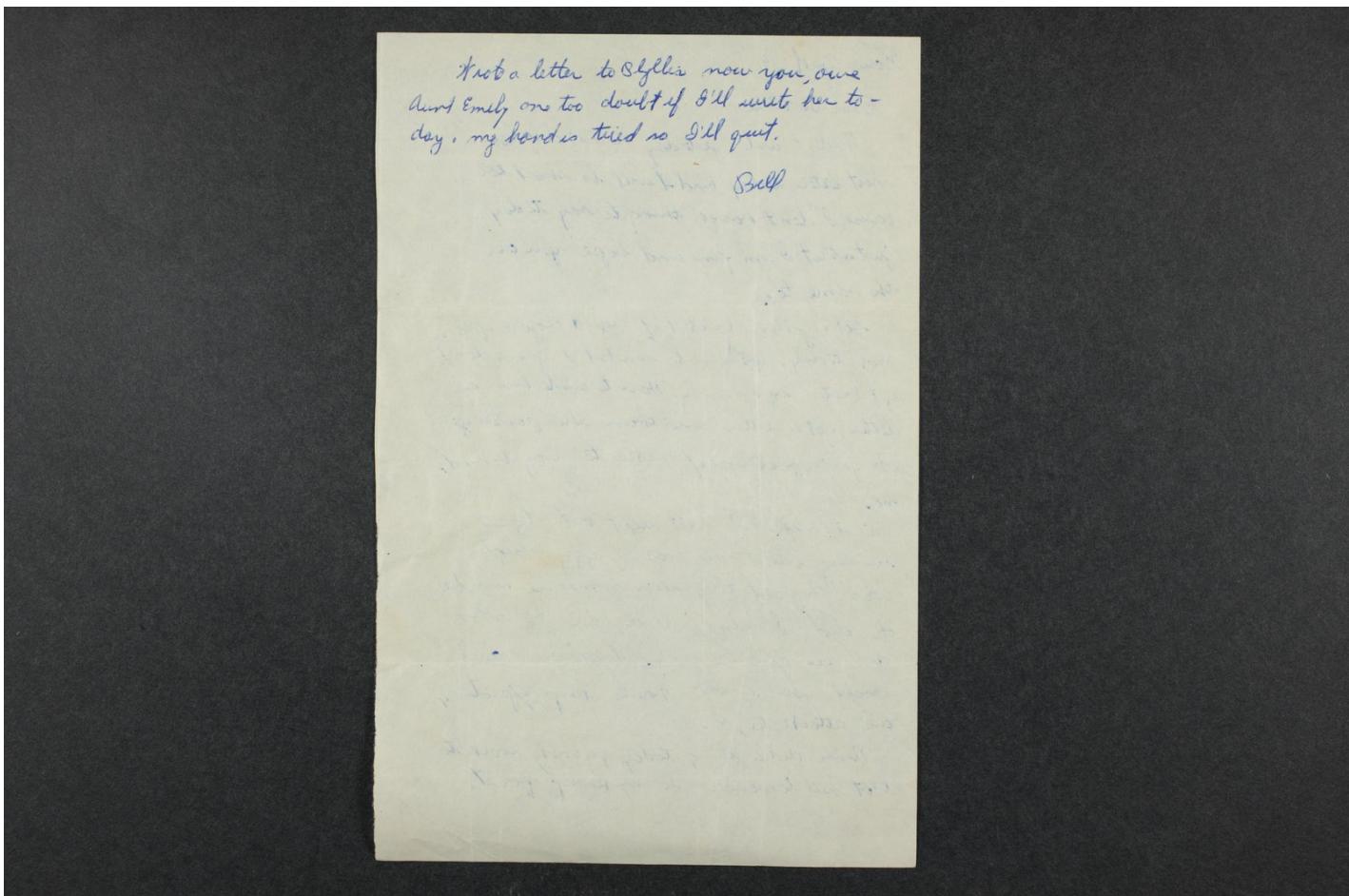
Out on the L.P. last night but it quit raining but it sure was foggy enough long thought they seen someone maybe they did, I didn't, never can tell what you smokes or really do see on a dark night you know. I shall keep expecting an attack to, no.

Never did a thing today probably work to beat hell tomorrow to make up for it.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family



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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Kansa April 27

Dear Folks.

Tell how are you tonight, fine I hope pretty good myself. Went to church this afternoon had a low blow though. I don't know if you remember any of the boys that left from Omaha or not well Phil Spooner, Dad talked to his Dad there from Omaha, he was killed by a mine Tuesday morn. shame a good boy, assist plot Sgt already, worst part is he was immature running a problem, so his death didn't accomplish a thing.

I imagine you are all ready to go to St Louis, maybe you have already gone. Wrote a letter to Dad yesterday, figured maybe he would like a separate letter once, we was lonesome never did get lonesome in the first place, we miss them.

We are occupying first plot again, they are making a sweep through a hill tonight, might run into trouble.

About all I have to say I guess so will close now.

over

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

That last group of pictures of the Chapel, etc in
the one of me and other boy, he is Gordon Miller.
In the one of us four they are forget order. You
can tell me & Miller the shortest is Edmund Jansen
other is Elmer Fidger, he is on the close up
with Miller. Spooner would have been there
too but he was at school at the time. Spooner
& Miller were both married on their furlough.

They have got ^{Closing now} about
four hours now and we will be ⁱⁿ Billings, Monday
and I expect to take stock of our things

It is to give the money received
so far, up to date and of course
when the telegram brought a bill, but it was
not paid and you will see what it was
when the bill will be presented to the bank

so you will get to know how much
you will receive when you come home.

We expect to be home Saturday

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea May something 4:30

Dear Mother & Dad

Well how are you this morning I'm fine, tired
but otherwise O.K.

Chinamen got ambitious tonight and hit F
to about 11:00 they called in our plot, to fell in if needed
but they were repelled so all we had was a long hike.
got back about 3:30 I guess. Cooked a cup of coffee
borrowed some from the kitchen about 2 lbs I guess.

Can't hardly keep my eyes open now. guess I
will try to get a little shatige

Haven't much to write about go in reverse around
18 to 25 of May. Don't know what kind or who.
Want to quit so soon but this all

Bell

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

Haus May,

Dear folks,

Don't think I have written the
last couple days so I figure I
had better write a few sentences.

Got paid yesterday, I'll see how
much money I have maybe send
Sylvie a money order so they can get
a camera and take pictures of their
future heirs.

Occupied F Co's positions last night
while they set up a screening force.
You know May 1 is Communist day
I guess, everyone here is jumping about
with wheels on anyway. Troops don't
give a damn. L Co lost 2 men &
wounded on a sweep last night so
what is the difference just or patriotic
don't see any difference myself.

Slipped on a hell last night and
wrenched my knee don't guess we
have a doctor tonight, rest will pro-
bably help it some.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

If not go see the medics. I have been talking to some of the other boys and they are bothered going down hill to with their knees that is.

We have 21 more days up here according to the rumors that are floating around. One depressing rumor going from latrine to latrine 180th Reg is going to the states, some rumor.

About chow time I guess, dinner, so I'll sign off.

Bill

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea May 5.

Folks,

Friday afternoon, hot and sultry most of my men are working out so I am taking it easy now. I ~~that~~ will probably put the fan after while again I can't seem to get by a day anymore without getting into trouble of some kind sure deceasing, plz bzg is a dumb no good person who makes it hard to keep fences repaired as the saying goes. I don't know maybe I had better quit my squad leader job and let someone else have it maybe the boys would have an easier time.

I got the box of cookies this morning just about all gone too. I got 3 letters from you 33, 24, 25 if you wrote 23 never got it, and one from Phyllis 23. One envelope on a letter is enough don't have time to write very much and it is just needless expense. I wrote you a real short letter this morning and mailed it. Still have 10 or 12 days up here before we move off again that will be the day.

Been here 5 months at least 4 if not 5 to go yet sure been a long time, seems like years since I've seen any enjoyable events.

About show time so I'll close

Bell

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Houa Mayb.

Dear Folks

Cloudy and warm this morning might rain but I doubt it very much. the rainy season is just around the corner I have hopes we will be off line before it hits to severe.

I got 3 letters from you today 222829 one of them written by Dad he should write more often. One from JuJu and one from Melv Peters. I dropped him a letter a couple weeks ago to see if he was ever near us but he stays back at Pusan so doubt we could contact each other very readily.

I made the promotion list last night. Sgt Lamb now, still think I would be a better private than a sgt. just hope & don't lose it now that I have it. Should get 300-40 dollars a month more don't exactly know the base pay, never been issued the pay scale, they are supposed to but never got one.

I was a sleep when they called me to chow and never answered the phone so I will probably get a royal chewing before the morning is out.

"Oh, Yes!" I shot a deer yesterday afternoon he was down in front of my position right after dinner. He weighted I guess 50 or 60 lbs.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Took some pictures of it so when the roll is used up I'll send it home. Have to go 9,000 miles to shot a deer some fun. Cookies are going to cook it for me maybe be done by dinner time.

I got that package you keep writing about didn't I write and tell you must be getting forgetfull over here.

I figure I have 22 points now maybe one less or one more so have at least 4 months to go, maybe Sept, but that is wishful thinking on my part, a buck can be declared essential anytime and freeze, but that is not done to often.

Well hope you are not working to hard and that it is nice at home

Love

Bell

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea, At May 6
Dear Folks,

Evening here calm & peaceful so far hard to tell what the night will bring. Last night, last two nights so far were quiet, I wrote you a letter but I guess I lost it and didn't mail it so for a couple days you probably won't get any letters. We have been getting quite a bit of artillery fire during chow time sometimes holds up chow for 2 hrs till it lets up. Couple boys in first platoon were scratched didn't hurt them much probably get purple heart.

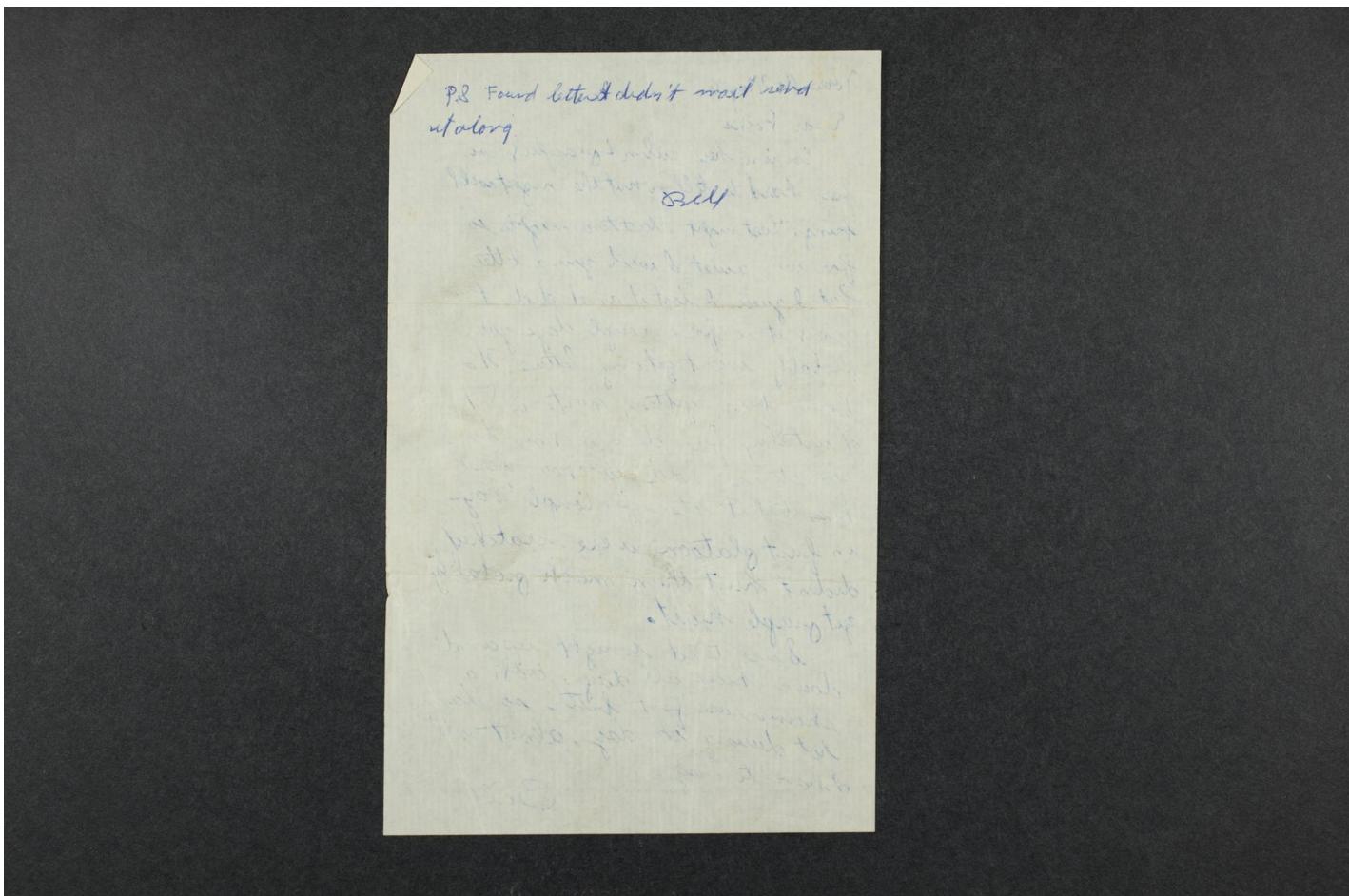
Sure tired tonight up and down hills all day, took a shower sure felt better so damn hot during the day. about all I have to say

Bill

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
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William Lloyd Lamb to family

Korea May 8

Dear Grandparents

I guess I will write you a short letter this afternoon
haven't much to say just hope you are well & feel
pretty good myself, a little tired but that is natural
for a dough boy I guess, keep them tired and he
works better.

It sure has warmed up over here not like
last winter anyway when we had so many
clothes on we couldn't move, these hills are
not near as rough. It is cloudy and hazy
this afternoon might rain but I doubt it.
air feels dry.

We are to stay here on the 8 more days
than catch some�erve, I guess, couple of weeks
Chow was early this evening so didn't get
this letter finished early enough to mail
mail it in the morning if I don't forget it.

Ocanyo 2nd plat. tonight they are pulling
an ambush, not to far out. doubt if they'll
hit any thing.

I hope you are taking good care of
Mother & Dad. Wouldn't doubt but what
you have peas & potatoes already. Tell
Grandpa he would have fun farming

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

over here. There is not a field over here as big as Grandpa's back garden. And in the middle of all of them there is a big rock pile or boulder.

I am not writing very good but maybe you can make it out. Writing equipment is scarce you know, I am writing on a piece of cardboard, on my knee sitting on a sand bag.

Every thing is green now, can't hardly see our positions, which is good you know what with green uniforms, green sandbags etc.

I guess I don't know any further news now, so if you'll write soon I'll close.

Grandson
Bill

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

give you paper with lines
maybe you can write straight on.

Korea May 8.

Dear folks,

Not this afternoon clear as a bell. Was
on the listening post last night was warm
till about 1 o'clock than wind came up
and got a little chilly not bad at all. Have a
bullet train so that makes it a lot easier
on a person when I think of those dark
rainy nights we were out on patrol &
L.P. Here a new Bath commander Lt Col
Conroy, seems he doesn't go for patrols so
much as Major Buck did unless he hasn't
got around to it yet. hasn't been out for
better than a week. Hope we don't seem
most patrols are getting set now. Still have
13 days left so that could give us 13 patrols
Rumor is pretty strong of just 15 days leave
and back up for 42 days. Seems 2nd Div
is in Army Reserve and only one Div at a
time can be there. Rumor says we should

Kansas Memory



William Lloyd Lamb to family

be in Army Reserve by July 10. We are supposed to go into Army Reserve every 4 months, we have been here going on 6 months.

What do you think of my promotion never thought I could make it, Holding it will be the problem now I reckon rank comes & goes awful easy here in combat any little reason and private E2. Squad leader calls for Sgt just class so I can make another good if things go right. Don't make much difference as long as I get to see 28A. again. During the day doesn't seem like we are in war unless Old Joe Chank chuckles in some mortar at show time like day before. He can see F Co show area, and they dropped one exactly where they set the kettle. Happened no one was around at the time.

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William Lloyd Lamb to family

