

Nov 8

Hd Qrs I Cav Div

PG/1209 (18)
1 OF 5

On Service

My dear Mr. Mrs.

I have just got a letter from you dated Nov 3 & got a long letter from you last night of the 2^d. Don'ty getting so many letters & just makes all the difference.

The camera hasn't arrived yet, but I hope it will in a day or two. I hope it comes soon as we have glorious sunny days & I could get a lot of photos. It is very foggy in the morning till about 10 in & the clears off - we have glorious sunny days quite warm enough to leave off a woody, then it turns cold about 4 in & the fog comes up again. A good thick fog usually too. What bad luck about Vivian's mail but she's wrong about the landshun, they're all out. In fact the Germans love

practically reorganized their army. They
have mixed the irregular Corps with the
Regular Corps & renumbered them.

For instance they amalgamate the 9th
& 11th Corps & call it now the 5th Corps.

Those numbers aren't right but it explains
it better. We've knocked up a lot of

Lordsburg. They left a whole battalion
of the 6th to cover their retreat at

Sablouner & gave the orders to hang
on until they were ordered to retire & they
got no orders to retire with the result

that very few got away. That was the
day I knocked one over. But it covered
their retreat very effectively. When we

got through the all their baggage guns
& materials had had plenty of time to

get away. They certainly make war well.
But don't have much consideration for

casualties. The other day a prisoner told

us that they had been ordered to take Ypres

without regard for casualties. We've still got

2. Their casualties have been enormous. PG/1209 (12)
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All the prisoners who come in say that they have lost all their regular officers & that companies & even battalions are commanded by Sgts & Sgt Majors promoted.

There is a far greater destruction in Germany between the Sgt & Officer than even in England. We hear great news from

Russia & also from newspapers report large movement of troops eastward. Looks as if they were sending a Corps or so over to stiffen their eastern flank. We hear

all this but there is no sign yet of the line weakening here. We've been in this line since the 15th of Oct. I think it is

it is a regular size war. One would be a regular rabbit & dig. I heard

yesterday that in part of the Division on our Right, (that is the left Arctic is

with) the Germans had tunneled under the ground right up to the wire entanglements & cut them in the night. They have the

were about 50 or 60 yards in front of
the trenches & the enemy's trenches are about
400 yds off. They are pretty indistinct like
Doitit. Of course the Kaiser is coming up
here too much than just a bit.

Yesterday (Nov 7) was rather a trying day.
We went out about 7 or 8 and heard that the

Front was going to make an attack. We
had an infantry Bde set up on the right
to show if they were successful or to
drive back the German counter attack if
one was made. But they went to take any
part in the actual attack. Well about 10

or the general, Brown, Woodrow & I rode
off to see the attack & show the infantry
when to go. A thing the general is very
fond of doing, going moving about in
the firing line. There was rather an unpleasant
amount of shelling going on, which I don't
care for at all. Well we went down &
reconnoitered the ground for the job & then
the general showed them when to go.

3. We stayed there for some time & then went back. The general had the President's car up & went back in that, we all rode back. On the way we were riding across country. We went slow for a bit & then somehow I felt I would like to push a bit & suggested to slow we might not, so that we did. Well we'd just got over one houghed when the woo bong bong bong & fire man's lit in the field we had just crossed. Quite near enough to be unpleasant. We then went back & had lunch & after that went back to the Infantry again. The Front had done well & made about 4 mile of ground, which was good. I sat in a tent for sometime & talked to Bluffy Woodson. That kind work must be hell. We then rode round to the Infantry Base & over night & got their situation. Then I rode back here with the horses & the gun mules. The road was a bit blocked with Fred, so it was

rather a job getting along.

Mrs de Jode set me a big bussard cake awfully nice if he won't it.

We got the Div relieved last night & now they're having two days rest. Poor devil they need it. I hope they will relieve us for now as the Div works right bodily.

This morning I rode down to the loan club here & bought you a postcard which'll send off with apparently a pair. I had to get some money from the field office.

One can get anything up to \$5, one a week or a month I forget quite what.

Personally I find this a very cheap existence. No loans to pay or wages to pay. Saves a lot. I must get my back book from Case sometime & see how I stand. I saw Frank this morning & asked him to dinner, but I'm afraid he won't come. It's very hard for old things. About 12 o'clock I started

9 on a path horse (Melody) ~ to go & see
the Regt. They are about 10 miles off.

After wading about I found where they
are but had to go through a town which
they have been shelling pretty heavily. It
was about 2:00 when I got to the edge of
the town. I saw a lot of shells bursting
just to the east of it quite close to
where I wanted to go. I was just meditating
what to do when there was a whizz and
a "mania" hit in the town about 400
yds off. But that was quite enough.
I don't like shells at the best of times &
if one has to go with a message well
that's another thing. But I didn't long
for riding through a town they've been
shelling pretty heavily. There were a
lot of shell holes just where I was & a
couple of houses had been knocked in.
So we had a dignified retreat &
came back. It seems we had a good
long ride & exercised the horses.

We have had no news to-day. There's
sun pretty quiet. I suffer the usual
morning & evening attack but have had
I've heard nothing about it.

I got an awfully nice woolly waistcoat
last night addressed by you. I can quite
make out who it's from. Will you let
me know. Whoever it's from it's glorious
& just what I want to wear in the
evenings - later on it will do splendidly
to wear under another woolly.

What a nice letter from Dora. I must
write to her again. But it's awfully
hard to write to anybody. I never seem
to be able to write in the day time so
soon as I sit down to write I get set
off on some job.

I'm longing for my course to come.
I hope it comes to-morrow. Jeff has
just got one of the same sort. I don't
think his has got a special Union Tag
which is half the battle.

5. They won't send any Pylo back to England, they will pull the out like they have done us to day a bit then not - then get back on up from the boat to make them up to straight. But they can't put with a single man who is able to fight, we want more men if possible. Well I think I have told you all the news. OK! No. I nearly forgot to thank you for the candles which arrived last night. They are splendid & just what I want. Will you send them out to me every now & again. I must work now for dinner. It is glorious here we change for dinner & have dinner off a nice white cloth. I gave Aunt a miss to day so am rather hungry. Best love to you all.

Your boy
Pat