

## Letters from Lester Hubbard to Barbara Larsen

*Spelling has not been corrected*

*My grandmother, Gene Beth Hubbard Croft had letters from her father and mother written during World War I in her possession. She gave them to me (Dana Palmer) while I was in college at BYU along with the Book of Mormon Lester carried with him during the war. Below is a type transcription of the letters my roommates and I made of the original letters in 1994. The spelling has not been corrected and is listed as it appeared in the handwritten letters.  
The original letters are still in my possession. – Dana Palmer, December 2017*

P.V.T Lester Hubbard  
+164C448+

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch  
Date: 25 April 1918  
Received at: Deweyville, Utah

Dearest Barbara,

April 24, 1918

I wonder what my girl is doing on this wet night when I am so lonesome. You don't seem to care what I am doing. If you did you would have written me today. All I have done today is kill time. That was partly done by going to two shows this afternoon. I went to the Vandville(?) at the Kearny Theater and I went to a picture tonight. The Vandville was the crude type that interests some people. The picture Mary Pickford in "Poor Little Pefura" was good.

It is getty dusty and quite dry here now. We have quite a few dust storms which are nice. You speak of being cold up there. Why don't you select a warm climate to live in.

Barbara this is a funny life, isn't it. Never a care or worry but just take life as it comes. I should like to be in Utah once more where it is exciting and people care.

They say they are going to reduce the fares to one-half price to soldiers going home on Furloughs. I wish I were lucky. Oh boy I would be there.

I had a narrow escape from getting injured by a horse yesterday. The cinche broke and I was riding on the run over the terrain. Oh I managed it alright. I shall tell you more about it when the war is over.

I must close for tonight for it is getting late and I must go to bed.

With Love,  
Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch  
Date: 28 April 1918  
Received at: Deweyville, Utah

My dear Barbara,

April 27, 1918

I feel tired and blue tonight so I am writing to make myself forget how I feel. I went on guard last night and walked my post from one until five and was on again this afternoon from one until five. I did not half to walk this afternoon, if I had I would not be able to move tonight. I receive a letter from Willard tonight saying that I was coming home, fine isn't it. Rumors spread like bacteria in Willard. The news hangs on to those people like sleep did to me last night. Really I was half asleep most of the time. Sometimes I would go to sleep standing up and would find myself reeling like a drunken man. That is what I call real misery. I was afraid to sit down because you know the penalty for being found asleep on post.

There is nothing doing here now. I have not been to town for three weeks, I must have lost the habit. The main reason has been that I have been on duty for three Saturdays.

Yesterdays there were two boys toppled over, just fainting. One was sick for quite awhile. We shall call it hard work, anything to give it a name. How are the beets by now. Will you work for me if I come home? Please say yes, I need your help, but your calculations are so erroneous. Now what do you think of me Barbara while I feel so tired. Haven't you any hopes? Well I haven't many myself. There is no use hoping. See what I am doing for you. Writing this letter. I didn't want to, but this makes four, since I received one from you so I am writing to make you ashamed. It is still early (about 7:00) but I am, going to bed. Remember your failings.

I am as ever, Lester  
HQ. Co. 145 Field Artillery

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch  
Date: 23 May 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Dearest Barbara,

HQ Co. 145 F.A.  
May 22, 1918

I arrived here tonight feeling fine, but oh I how I hated to come back. Well I guess I am ready to die anytime now.

I was sorry you felt the way you did Monday night when I phoned you. You did not understand ; I thought you did not want to. I have wished since that I had let things go and went up to see you. They gave a party for Althea that night and during most of the time I was mending leggings or doing something else so I did not take part with them. I left home at seven the next morning. Chas (Charles) took me to Salt Lake. I left there at too and arrived here tonight at six.

The rumors are here that we, at least part of us are going across soon. I expect I shall be one of them. I wish you were here with me. Do you think you would like to come down when I find out about the movement of our outfit. You know what we talked about the other night. If you could make your folks see the way you do and will come down here I am more than willing.

Really Barbara I am sorry things turned out as they did and I could not come up.

It is somewhat warmer here than it was at home. Oh I feel lonely tonight. How is your health? Write soon, as I want to hear from you before we go on a long hike. I forgot that I was not going to write to you.

With much love,  
Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch  
Date: 28 May 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Dear Barbara,

May 27, 1918

I came home early last night but I was too tired to write. I went to bed very early. The dance Sat. was not very good and I was not in a proper mood to enjoy it. I left before it was out and went to bed. Sunday we went up to Balboa park. Madame Shuman Hunk sang up there but I did not have a seat and I would not stand up. We left for camp at 4:25. It seemes as if I am getting worse all the time. It is but a habit now.

I do not know more than I did when I wrote you last. What I told you was all true. It was not one of my old tricks.

The biggest part of the regiment are going on a hike to Los Angeles next Wed. morning. That will be one thing I shall miss. I shall get a longer one.

What are you doing since school discontinued? This is what I am doing this afternoon. I did not want to go through their kid exercises so I heap it (?). I do not care what comes next anymore. I just live because i have to. One kid in the battery committed suicide but I do not expect to do anything like that. The boys are all tell of what they are going to do hen they go to Los. I am not telling anything.

There is not much to write to you today so I shall tire you no longer. I hope you have not forgotten me entirely already. I have not heard from you yet. I should like to hear from you tomorrow.

With much love,  
Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch

Date: 30 May 1918

Received at: Brigham City, Utah

My dear Barbara,

May 30, 1918

I intended to write to you last night, but I did not get back from town until ten o'clock. I received a letter from you yesterday. It seems to me as if I am disappointed if I do not hear from you everyday. It seems as if you mean more to me now than you ever did before. I have always known how you felt toward me and have never been afraid to have you anywhere. You usually tell me where you go, even to the Springs. What is the difference whether Mrs. Reedes were there or not. I know you would have you fun and it would be the same whether she cared or not. I should have liked to have been there. Perhaps she would have that you were in bad company. Why talk about that. Let's talk about how cold it is here. I do not know what is the matter. It is colder than it ever was last month down here. It is just a cold reception for us when we leave.

I heard that Orvil Merrill said it was only the undesirable bench privates that were with our bench. They did select mostly privates to go but those of higher rank who were not afraid and had this true spirit tried to go. There are some of the N.C. Officers who asked to be reduced to get away.

Keller and I were told by someone who knew that the Lieut. want of our company found that our names had been sent in and did his level best to get us out. He could not do so now if he wanted. I am glad I am going to get out of this mixed organization. I shall be greatly dissappointed if I could not go. There is but a small chance of physical exam and I want to go thru with that. Sure I wish you could go but you could stay there and write to me.

I saw the picture "The Unbeliever" yesterday. It sure is a good war picture. The "Rose of Blood" was good but I did not like Theda Bara.

I must stop for this time as one of the boys is waiting for me. Write soon.

With love,  
Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch

Date: 1 June 1918

Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Dearest Barbara,

May 31, 1918

I received your hurry up letter yesterday. I was pleased to know that you wanted to write me once more. You seem to think that going across means sure death. Well it doesn't. It just means that there will be a better chance that I may write to you from here for a while yet, we never know. We had our physical exams today. I had been in the kitchen. It has been easy since there has been so few here that are not on the hike. I walk guard Sunday, it seems as if I am quite unlucky lately. I suppose I need something to keep me from going to town. There is nothing there of interest now and has not been since you left me except when my relatives were here. I am sorry I can not see you again for such a long time but I shall always remember you. You say we have been foolish but why think of that when it has been in the past. I know we do not realize our folly until afterwards. I am going to try to forget my seriousness and be the same care free that I was. Really and truly I want to go with the boys even if some that were afraid to go said it was the undesirables. It is true they are, principally privates but I for one consider myself as good a soldier as any that are left and what is more I have someone at home which is hard for them to beat. You do not believe it I know, but it is the truth. Barbara, my dear little girl, don't take things so serious. Everything will turn out for the best in the end. When I get into service I shall think of who I am fighting for and I know I can do more. It undoubtedly will be a more strenuous life than this but I can stand it. We shall hope it won't last forever. Then I shall have a line of stories that will interest children.

It is much warmer today and I am lazy as usual. I wish you were in town so I could see you tomorrow. I expect to remain right here. it is so hard to pass the time away when you have nothing to do. I think it is best that I close for this time and leave off here until tomorrow. Think of me once in a great while and write to me often while you can. I am as always yours, Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA-- Kearney Branch  
Date: 2 June 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

My dear Barbara,

June 1, 1918

I did not write last night because I did not come home until quite late. I went to town and while there I went to a dance. I became tired and came home early. I have not done anything today but rest. Then guard tonight. Oh that will be joyful. I can just wish I were home with you instead of carrying a rifle and walking down the battery street. There is a Sunday school here this morning, but I am not religiously inclined. All I want to do is come see you. It will do me a lot of good won't it. Oh well I can sit here and write. You say for me to do the best I can, and that is the best. What is this fine day bringing for you. I hope you are in church where you should be. I expect this will be the last Sunday that I shall write to you from here. I do not know. Have you talked with Mother since I left. I wonder what she thinks of my going. I suppose the fight will be almost as hard for them at home as it will be for us.

Barbara you do not know how I appreciate your kindness in offering to help me. It seems as if you feel that you can't do enough for me. I feel that I have been neglectful with you and have not done my part. I suppose it is just my nature. I am sure it affords me but little satisfaction when I stop to think. I realize that other would do, and are doing more for you than I am. If it is a joy, which I know it is, it pleases me that much more. Don't ever think that I would ever object. As I have told you before, you have a perfect right to follow your own desires. Do not infer that I want you to drift away from me. That is something that is entirely contrary to my wish. All I hope is that I may come back to you as good yes even better than I was when I left you. Why should I soliloquize on such a thing at the present. That time is far away. We do not know what may happen to either of us, all we can do is hope and make the best of what we have.

It seems as if I miss you more when I leave camp then when I stay here. When I am alone especially I do not know what to do so my mind suggests camp and that is where I end.

I am going to get my hair clipped tomorrow. I shall be a fine bird then. I'll bet you would disown me if you could see me. Never mind that but think of me tonight while I am walking my post in a military manner, sleeping every chance I get. Write to me often. Your undelivered letters will be returned to you. I shall write to you from our Port of Embarkation sure.

Tell Orville M. that some of the wagoners of C. Battery who had the proper spirit requested and were permitted to go. A first Sargeant, a sargeant and two corporals from B. Battery and other non commisioned officers from the other batteries are in the ranks. He has the name of being tinged with yellow by the way he did when they were in Salt Lake and other stunts he has pulled since he has been down here. That's the kind that always yell loudest. I do not profess to be much but I can show others who are nearly his equal.

I should not write this way, but to me he appears to be a bellows with his jaw for a handle.

That doesn't interest you I know. I better close before I write a book and say nothing. I am waiting for you to come see me today.

Yours with love,  
Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - Jersey City, NJ-- Merritt Branch

Date: 23 June 1918

Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Camp Merritt, NJ

June 22, 1918

My dear Barbara,

I have much time to waste these days so I spend part writing letters. We have our final inspection at one o'clock; it will be final if everyone is equipped. We never drill here, all we have is details. I get out of them now because I am on light duty. That is the best job of all.

We had a real rain last night. Part of it came while we were waiting for our clothes. It seems as if we work nights now and rest days. Some of the fellows work all night getting and issuing clothes. Everyone wanders around as restless as can be and wonders if we shall get a chance to go to New York tonight. I shall be cultured when I leave the big metropolis. You will never know me when I come back. Oh I shall come back if I get over there once. I should be very much disappointed if I fed the fish on the way. I do not mean being sick. How are you and your brothers getting along on this day. I suppose Orville is getting use to his new life. Wait until he gets in the army. Home will look better than it did before.

The inspection is now over and some of the boys are getting passes to town. I want to get mine for tomorrow because they will not give one today. We are not going to be confined so close from now on. We have all our clothes and we are ready to move any time now. I should like to here from you once more, but I guess there is no use.

Have a good time for me, mine is over. I shall close for today.

I am as always,

Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail -  
Date: 25 Nov 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

AEF, France  
November 25, 1918

Dear Barbara,

How long it has been since I wrote to you, I do not know but I have received but a few letters lately. In fact I have not heard from you for a long time. I am many miles from the place where I was when I wrote to you last. I have a letter in my pocket that I wrote to you Nov. 12, but it is too old to send\*.

This army life has changed considerably since Nov. 11. We hear no more shells but do much hiking. I thot at first I was going to wear out, but I have become accustomed to it now. Perhaps I shall be home in a few months, a least I hope so. I wish you all the success in the world.

I am as ever,  
Lester Hubbard  
SUP. Co. 1579  
A.E.F. France

\*Sent from: Soldier's Mail - US Army's Post Office  
Date: 12 Nov 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

AEF, Germany  
November 12, 1918

Dear Barbara,

I am waiting in a railroad station to draw rations and expect to wait here most of the night. That is a very common occurrence for me since we started on this long hike. Since we left France I have past through part of Belgium, Luxemburg, and at present I am in Neueuhahr. Tomorrow somewhere else. Now that I can tell you I shall try to say where I was when you were so anxious to know where I was. I was on four fourts and First the Toul then the St. Mehiel, then Champagne, the the Argonne. There were times when I wondered what would happen next. Now I wonder when I shall get home. I am improving my speech considerable in this foreign land and get along very well. I have just had a conversation with a lady here. I find these people much better than i expected.

Now that you have received another letter from me, do not be suprised because I may write another in a few weeks. I hope it will be from America. Be the best you know how. With love,

Lester

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - US Army Post Office  
Date: 6 Feb 1919  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

AEF, Germany  
February 1, 1919

Dear Barbara,

It my night to stay in the office so I am using some of my spare time to write a few letters. I have not heard from you since I received the letter containing the money order. Perhaps you thought you would buy your way out.

I suppose it is alright and for the best. I am always prepared for anything these days. I would be very lucky no matter the estate turns. I hope you do your part as any good sister should. I am beginning to believe my interests are in your hands.

I can not imagine what is the matter with Reese. He never writes to me. I thought his memory was long enough not to forget me entirely.

Park City must have many charms at present. It is either that or the high price of paper and the low wages due to returning soldiers. It seems to me that I am never going back, so I relinquish all my rights in the states and will make my home in South America. That is my plan for a few years at least. Of course I have to get permission to leave the Dutchville first.

From the account you gave of Bevand etc. I believe you are working you scheme quite well. I hope you have all the success in the world and all ends in the best way for you. If you ever feel inclined to write my address is always the same.

I am as ever,  
Lester Hubbard  
Supply Co. 157.A.  
AEF, Germany

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - US Military Postal Express Service  
Date: 25 Feb 1919  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

AEF, Germany  
February 23, 1919

My dear Barbara,

I wrote to you but two days ago, of course I do not expect an answer as such a thing is out of the question. You sure must have found something very interesting so that you can never find time to send even a line once in a while to a person who is so far away, and who would never take any offences if you should write. The winter weather must have been very cold any the ink froze. Perhaps it will thaw again in the spring.

Barbara, I hear that Chas is very much interested in C. Jensen. Do me a favor because I know her as well as you do. Yes I believe better. Do not put yourself out in any way as i know you need all your time now that the soldiers and sailors are returning.

Life here is the same old grind. I stay in the office most of the time unless I am at headquarters. I have thot of you considerable today and wondered where you were spending you delightful Sunday. I am right in this fine office which is in a private home, I have had very little to do today so I write letters to pass the time away. I was surprised to hear that they expected me to come home. Oh no! Not me. I find this is a very large world, and I am very small so I must move considerable to see all of it.

What can you be doing today? I must be bothered by some. Oh I can't say what. I must close before I get worse.

Yours with Love,  
Lester Hubbard  
Supply Co. 157.A.  
A.E.F.  
Germany

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - US Army MPES  
Date: 8 March 1919  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Dear Barbara, March 7, 1919

I wrote you some time ago saying I was leaving Germany. Well here I am in Paris where everything is busy and much life. I have been very busy here for two days getting a room and registered. I do not know how I shall get along in a French University. I was assigned to the U of Paris the Sarbonne. It ranks with the best in France. All I need just now is a wife to keep me out of mischief. You ever take it into your head to come to Paris just let me know and I shall have all prepared. But be sure you bring some money, because living here is very high. I sure wish you were here. Perhaps we could go to Palais Royal in Gaud Opera once. See I am getting somewhat affected in my speech already. If it were not for the thinness of my purse I would strut now. Just wait until I spend four months here. You will never know me. Matter West won't know friends. One of the things I must always remember is where I go so I can find my way back. Talk about Los Angeles or New York for finding your way. It was easy for me compared to this. The language was easier also, perhaps you know it.

Well Barbara old girl, I know you are far away but I would like to see you just now. It has been nearly one year since I was with you and will be five months more. I shall never know what I have missed in my past, if I?

It was a real opportunity for me to come to this school. I would have to had stayed in Germany until July anyway. Here the gov't pays a big percent of my expenses so I am losing little and gaining much experience.

I hope I find Barbara the same old girl I left long ago.

I am as always,  
Lester

Address

c/o Army Ed. Commission  
Sorbonne Detach  
76 Rue de Faubourg  
St. Honore  
A.P.O. 702  
Paris, France

Sent from: Soldier's Mail -  
Date: 22 March 1919  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Paris, France

Dear Barbara, March 22, 1919

It has been a few days since I wrote to you but my time has been such that I have always been going somewhere and have not taken time lately. I am in a home of a private family now. The people are very nice and try to do everything they can. It is much better than the hotel. This is really the best I have had since I left home so I think I shall stay right here this time. It is the third place I have been in since I came to Paris. I have been a rolling stone for sure.

School is the same old thing everyday. Just sit in class and hear them talk French. I understand better everyday. I am afraid I shall forget English entirely. What would a child be if he were German, French, Latin, English, and Danish. Ha ha. Oh Barbara how I wish you were here so I could tell you of my ancestors. Perhaps I could tell you about the war if you have not heard about the famous battles of the SOS already. Here I am in Paris on Saturday night with "Avec Pas Amie ou ne pas vie" (*With no friends or no life*) Can you read such. I can not. Read a letter from you this morning, three from Reese, one from Mother fine.

Love,  
Lester

c/o Army Ed. Com. Sarbonne Det.  
76 Rue du Faubourg, St. Honore'  
A.P.O. 702 Paris, France

## Letters from Orville to Barbara

*My grandmother, Gene Beth Hubbard Croft also had letters from her mother to her mother's brother Orville who died during World War I. Below are the type transcriptions of the originals in my possession. I have not corrected the spelling or grammar. The originals are still in my possession – Dana Palmer, December 2017*

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA  
Date: 29 July 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Camp D  
Section Naval Base  
San Diego  
July 28, 1918

Miss Barbara Larsen,  
Dear Sister,

Today being the Sabbath and nothing to do but write I thought I would write you a letter of camp life in Detenietian Camp for that's where we are for 21 days after we arrive here. First I will tell you a little about my trys here que Whig it was fine. Sure was some bunch 47 of us and good jolly fellows all of them. When we got to Los Angeles we took in the town right that was a week ago today. There was fiew of the Boys got figured up and got stewed right but most of them was (strictly decent). Los is some big sister. We left there Monday morning for San Diego and we sure took that town in right because we didn't have to repart until Tuesday at noon. We went Ocean Beach in the afternoon to swim one little sweet bird sayed to me "say sailor what do you think makes the ocean so ruff". Well I sayed if you had as many crabs on your bottom as the ocean got you would be rougher than you are. Now that was enough for that little fresh darling. Well the girls here just fall for a guy. We went to a sailor dance and talk about your stalk walking. We just couldn't help doing it. The girls would come and get you. They are sure treating the fellows well. But there isn't 1% of them decent. They think a fellow can love like he can fight. Ah there lots of things to get accostomed to in this life. It's a great life if you don't weaken. Well the first day in camp we didn't get our clothing. So all the birds he bawled us out but we got blankets, cots, a mattress, and a good tent to sleep in, board floor, and electric light in it. Next day we got our clatering Whites and Blues, doctors examinations, and after our hair cuts, bakey and a big shot in the left arm as well as a vaccination which about crippled some of the birds for too are three dayes. My arm was a little stiff. We git 2 more shots in the arm before we leave Detention camp. Ah Yess we were out to drill one day and got our fingerprints taken on a little metal with our name on and hung around our necks. I have had wash day once and a good swim in the ocean most every day. Yess it's the life if you don't weak on the food is good but no sugar and we don't get anything but coffee to drink but we get white bread to eat. Well sister dear gess I will close for this time give all my love and kisses to the darlings (get me) write soon Love to all home address.

Section Naval Base  
Camp D

Orvile

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA  
Date: 3 August 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Dearest Sister,

Aug 3, 1918

I rec, your letter of the 29th too days ago and was very glad to here from you sister. Am sorry you were peaved at me sister but your letter and connies was mail the same day but mail is very irregular here in Detention Camp both going and coming. Well I have soon been here too weeks and just one more week left in this ol ----- of a place. I would have written sooner but I have been strictely on the blink. My second shot in the arm and my vacionation working so that my arm is about as big as an orderinary leg part. Me in bed fun 2 days with a fever at 105 4/10 on a average of corse they took me to the Haspital at once with chills and a fever but they soon took that out of me. It was the typhoid in ol action that got me. I am sore and stiff and my head feels like a elephant had stept on it. My left arm is out of comition for the time being. I am sure glad I just have one more shot left next Friday I think. Well out side of the shot I like the life fine. I have had several kinds of drilling and boating, swimming and the likes of that which keeps to make time go far I must admit time is a wee bit long and lonesome maby its because I had to many good times before I left home this time. They are learning us all the Army Drills. Why no one knoes they have also staped all recruting stations fur too months. It sure looks likes Germany is catching it now and we will all be home before long about 1 1/2 years no more. Well how are you and Stella a the (bunch) making it. I supose its no easy job to git a man naw days. Well we have enough of them here 2200. 500 in the Detention Camp. Who musent look out of the high board fence far 21 dayes. I never was a lonesome all the time I was in Curape as I have been sinse I came to this camp. I supose thats Connier folt iseut it? Well I sure have received a sweet letter from her and a dorm swell picture where she is wearing one of those innocent smiles (truth no) Well you knoe her eyes are just fine and its a might swell picture she has looked at me many times just that way. Well sister all girls are exceptable of all kinds and pictures as well. I wish you would send that picture of Marie to me thats in my bead room and keep me well informed about whats going on also send the news papers to me. Love to all at home and keep the home fire burning By-By-

Section Navel Base  
Camp D.

Orville

August 15, 1918

Dear Barbara,

Rec. your letter to day at noon which was written in your hours of suspense waiting for Bernard. Glad to here you are enjoying your self so nicely. I am writing this letter immediatley after hearing from you and Dinner so feel purty good but the Wind is blowing and I am writing in the Gard Tent for I am on gard to day from this morning till 12:00 and from 2:00 till 4:00 and from 12:00 to night till 3:00 A.M. in the morning. But the nicest part of it all is a big Dance in the YMCA to night so I can Dance from 8:00 to 11:30 then go to gard from 12:00 to 3:00. Tomorrow is Saturday and I git 48 hours liberty. I have been to San Diego 2 times and some time I have had sister but oh there girls here they are crazy about sailors. I grabed a nurse from the St. Marks hospital that was quite classy but she was a fisick like the rest of them. When you got acquqinted a little better with her the all fall like brick fur a fellow so a fellow must be careful. Gee Whiz Sister girls here is about like they are in Europe if they go with a Bird home they think its there duty to fall fur him are something like that. There is 150 of them coming here for the Dance to night. Well we have a purty nice time after all I am in the Armed Gards B Devision. We git special training far manning big guns, gun crews for the boots sailing in the different parts of the world. We fall in Quarter in separate places and we are showed many favors in many ways. We voluntiered our service far that branch thats why how. I must close for now its about time to go on duty but I am goin to San Diego to morrow far 48 hour. Will tell you about it next time. Rec. the cake but it was smashed send everything in a wooden box next time- ah yes a grey sweter will do sister lots of love to all

Orvill

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA  
Date: 24 August 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Section Naval Base  
August 24, 1918

Dear Sister:

Just rec. your letter to day. Was glad to hear you are enjoying yourself so well under the present conditions and that you have got your School District changed. I suppose Brigham is some live bug now dayes, but I wouldn't mind draping around for a few dayes just the same I suppose I could have some time don't you? I am on gard duty again to day thats the life sister if you don't weak on, but walking a poast far 4 hours weakens one some. I go on again from 12:00 to 3:00 A.M. and of corse to morrow being Sunday am going to San Diego to see aBird her name is Lita Mc Connell. I like that name Lita she got blue eyes and a cunning smile, a trim build for I have seen her in a bathing suit at Cornado beach in fact there where your sailor brother maid his raise her parents are rich and she had me out to dinner last Sunday and auto riding that night just her and I. Yess sister she even writes and phones to me between Sunday and Wensday talk about falling for a guy. What she thinks I am the only Sailor at the Section Navel Base and there are about 1700 of us. She says the next time I git Liberty she is coming out to git me and if she dose these Birds will dye for I have cut out three of them now for daring me. I went to Church last Sunday in San Diego and am going again if I can make it but we bon't git off gard till 9:00 A.M. I haven't got much now to tell you only that I am glad I am here and not at Bellboa-park for we got the swellest training camp on the pacific of corse the park is beautiful but they haven't the camp arts for the men nare (near?) the Ocean to train on. Besides this is the biggest camp that's why the took movies of us yesterday and sister our devisions B. of the Armed Gards took all honors for drilling and we got the champion gun crew of all the camp. 31 shells per minute with 3 inch gun I am the guy that heaves the shells in. Were gitting some training and I am mighty tired at nights. Tell Connie I will write when I git time and am not so tired I go to bead before 9:00 P.M. Realy I don't hardely have time to write any-more sister. Now I am going to bead so I can git a little sleep before 12:00 are else I will probely go to sleep when I go to see the Birds in San Diego tomorrow. I am just as disguste a writer most of the girls as can be ayet siser for they are simple Birds. I say so at least maby I expect to mush of other fairer sext do I? But I can't stand a Bird falling for a fellow the first time they see him can you? Will close with love to all home and this of an you dear sister. oxoxox Orvill

Sent from: Soldier's Mail - San Diego, CA  
Date: 19 Sept 1918  
Received at: Brigham City, Utah

Section Naval Base  
Sept 9, 1918

Dear Barbara,

I just rec. a letter from you to Day at noon, and you can bet it was welcome. Well I am well and things are as usual here, plenty to do its now five o'clock and I just had one hour in French. We have a fine French teacher and there is so many words that resembeles English and Danish. I am a A number one student. It might come in right handy sister for I just got transfered to the Armed Forces Devison A. and there is 9 gun crews of them leaving tomorrow and of corse my turn isn't far off being in A. Division that just suits me fine for I am roring to go as they say here. Things sure do look good for the Allies now Dayes and we all want to do our part oh yes my girl in San Diego war operated on 2 weeks ago so I had to find another Bird and she is some bird to sister out here from Ohio for her mothers healthier. I don't see how this climate could help anyones health for I have always got a bad cold and its gits right cold at night always. But there is always a chance to keep warm in San Diego. I say so siss. There is a Club of girls in San Diego about 250 of them at the Golden Hills play grounds that has adapted. Our camp and they came out being pinch and eates and we clean up the YMCA so we have some time they give partys in town for us everyu week. Eaven the Mothers of these girls ask us home to dinner (and every thing). I got a letter from Marie in Denmark telling me she couldn't come and I don't like it not a bit but this war is making lots of people unhappy isn't it? Cheer up sister, Lester will come back I feel he will and you soon will git a letter telling you he is O.K. I guess you have been very busy in the Harvest I would like to be with . I long for the good old Fruit its affecty high here and we haven't any to much money we sailors. Did I tell you sister I took out \$5000 insurance to you if I git killed I think I maby you want git it those sister for I am coming back. You can't send that sweater to fast for its the time of the year they come in use at night and on Gard duty. I also would like a right good woolen blanket sent to me right soon. I prefere Grey in coller (*color*) and a Boubell Blanket. Tell Ira Ching-stone peaches is my delight enother good Fruit cake would be welcome to. Its soon Chow time and we are going to have movies tonight so I guess I will ring off. Give my love to all home tell Stella and the other girls Hello. I would write but I haven't the time (and everything). I am expecting Gard and Holst here tomorrow I just saw Debbirt Olsen the other night. I am going to Karrny the first 48 Hours Liberty I git and see the bunch good by for this time. Love to you all Orvill