

Knights of Columbus *I.*
OVERSEAS SERVICE

ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES



A.P.O. _____

DATE

March 31, 1919

*Private E. W. Downing
317 Mobile Laundry Unit
Remagen Germany
A.P.O.*

My Dear Mother,

*I sure was a happy
man when I got that special
long letter from you, and I am
sure going to prove my app-
reciation to you mother.*

*I hope this letter find
you all in good health and
enjoying life. I sure hope
daddy is feeling better and
able to enjoy life this sum-
mer. I thank him very
much for the little note he
put in your letter. Mother
and I sure wish I could*

have been at home to help
him celebrate his 50th birth-
day, and hope my Dad celebra-
~~some~~ many more.

My birthday passed
while we were on the road
traveling to Coblenz. We had
"cream puffs and Chicken"
or "Hard Tack and Bully Dee".
"Ask Claudine he knows what
that is." Believe me I sure am
well familiar with it my-
self. That is what we have lived
on, most of our time.

I must tell you what I have
been doing since we left Chat-
cauville France. We were
ordered to go to Coblenz Ger-
many, to be sent to Evac. Hos-
pital # 21. For duty. While on
our trip we saw many
great sights, which I never
will forget. We stayed over
night at Toul France and
believe me we ate everything
we could get our hands on

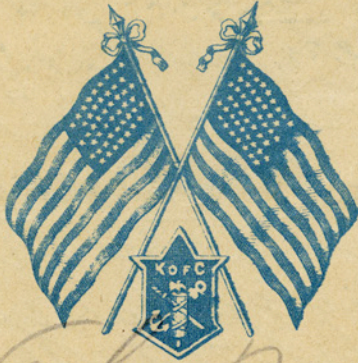
It sure was an interesting
 sight. When we came to
 to the City of Metz, "which the
 French had taken over" we
 saw where the Americans
 had prepared to take the
 city. Metz is quite a large
 place, and well fortified, has
 a large stone wall around
 the city which makes it look
 very peculiar. We got into
 Coblenz about 10:30 P.M. Ger-
 many is sure a different
 country from that of France
 like it myself much better
 as it is more advanced and
 the cities are much nicer.
 It makes you think you are
 back in the states.

Coblenz is sure a swell
 place. They have a large Y.M.
 C.A. their and everything
 giving an good shape and a
 German orchestra which
 plays every afternoon and
 evening for the soldiers.

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The Red Cross sure deserves
the name "a soldier's best
friend," as they sure treat a
soldier grand. (eat espe-
cial.) After we hit the mess
line twice, we then slept
on the floor as they did
not have room to accom-
modate us with beds. When
the time came for us to
move, the next morning we
took a "side door pullman"
for Coblenz Germany.

While on our trip from
Yancy to Metz, the city where
the Germans takes over the
trains we saw where the
Americans had driven the
Germans back, and the city
along the railroad all des-
troyed by our gun fire.

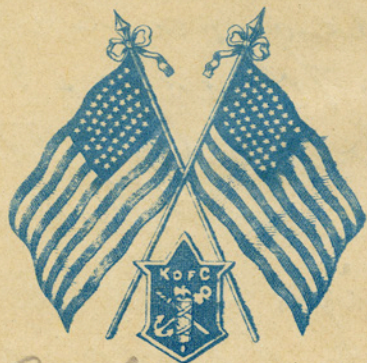
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Coblenz is a great leisure
place for the A.E.F. as there
is many historical sights
to be seen. The Rhein River
great sight. Also the Mosel
R. The city is in a big V shape
between the Rhein & Mosel
rivers.

When we arrived at
Coblenz no body seemed to
know where Evacuation
hospital #21 was so we all
being around the Red Cross
near the station. After we
got our general orders we
was marched down to a
place where we had move
ing company & sleep with
"Ludwig" "Red Old" that night I
itched for a week after that.
The next morning we saw

most of the city, went to the
YMCA for dinner and in
the afternoon took a trip
down to the Ex Kaisers
Castle on the bank of the
Rhine R. That sure was an
wonderful trip.

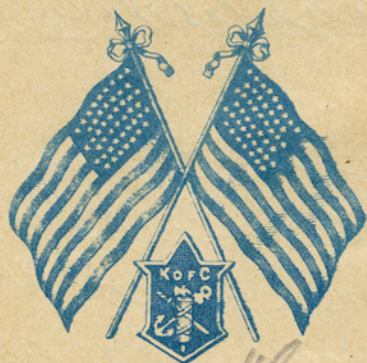
Did you get the cards
and letter I wrote you while
in the castle? I sent you
some pictures of the Rhein
River and the places I saw
while there. Hope you got
them mother.

That night we was
ordered to go to Neau-Chateau
as our hospital was there.
We all hated to leave Coblenz
as we were having our
wonderful time.

To Neau-Chateau we went
over the same route that
we came in on, as it is just
below Joul Franck. The
Evac. Hospital #21 was situated
in a place called Death Valley
and it sure suited its name.

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name, "ha ha" We stayed there
eight days and worked
every day. As it happened
our unit of 28 men worked
on the night shift. I have
been the laundry mechanic
since we first started at
Chateau d'ours, so I had it soft
as I had no trouble with our
night putting in a shaft
to the washers.

Our duties was not re-
quired there, so as luck
would have it the comman-
ing affairs of the laundry
shifts back to Coblenz. We
spent another night at Foul
as our train did not leave
there for Coblenz until 9:30
A.M. and we spent about 12
hrs. there as we got in Foul.

about nine that evening.
I have spent many nights
on a sement featherbed
"ha hu".

When we arrived in
Coblenz we stayed there until
the 24th of March, and was
finally sent down here at
Remagen Germany.

Remagen is on the
bank of the Rhine, 50 kls.
from Coblenz. It is a small
place, but sure is beautiful.
The climate here seems to
be quite different from that
of France, as it is cooler, air
much heavier and higher up in alt.

We are sleeping in a
German house, which they
turned over to the americans.
We have no beds, just the floor and
our blankets to sleep on, but we
sure have some fun, most every
night we have a array of old
nails, **or** anything we can get
our hands on "ha hu"

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The Rainbow Division
has its mess kitchen here
so part of them eat here. We
do not have to leave the
place for our meals on that
account. We have "peas
puffs and chicken" now
in the tent since we came
here.

While we have been
here we have been setting
up a Mobile Outfit which
is placed near
the river handy to water.
It consists of 4 trailers or
wagons which have the Laundry
Machinery in it. For
Power we have a Case Trac-
tor. We have not had any
experience with that kind of
an outfit as we have always

had a stationary laundry to run. I sure will be glad when I can get hands and get this laundry business out of my system. "La la"

Tell Mildred to send Claudy Adams address to me as I sure would love to hear from him, and you see I saw him really the first letter. I hope he is in good health and having a good time.

I will write Mildred real soon as I owe my dear little sister a letter I am quite sure. I hope them all luck and would love to see them.

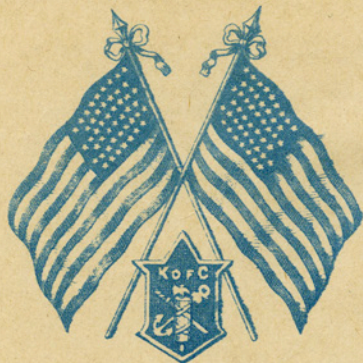
Another I sure would love to run the farm, if there was that good thing to happen as having rice to run. Heh I am quite sure I could make

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it a success. I do not think
matter that the farm had
is figuring on getting
upheld a pay for proposition
as I know about things about
farming people

My other friends at home
I think this is long enough
enough. I hope all the dear
ones at home luck and happy
& see you all some day
Goodbye for this time
Yours Son

Publ. E. W. Darning.

use address as I have it at head
of letter.

W. I. 7047