

After 5 days, return to

.....
El Paso Tex
.....

~~LIBERAL, KANS.~~



Mrs Eugene A. Tower

Box 261

*Cohasset
Mass*

Monday Morning July 10th
My dearest wife & Sargent,

I have been awfully busy
all day Saturday & Sunday morning every
minute, between drills, & cleaning up the
guns etc. Sargent can tell you what
inspection used to be in camp, well
we had inspection Saturday & again
Sunday and now have been obliged
to instruct the men in my squad from
Regular army inspection which comes at
9 o'clock and we are waiting with
our side arms on to be called out
to stand by our cots in the street
while Regular army officers inspect
everything, preparatory to an advance
by the 5th Reg. along the border —

Our Regiment was ordered to
march on Tuesday by about 15 mile
stages to outpost duty along the
border for 15 days, and 6th
Reg. is ready you bet, but I
have just heard a welcome order
and that is that K. Co & L. Co
will remain in this camp to patrol
the border for a certain distance from
here probably including the international
bridge. This is considered the most
important post I understand as directly
opposite us there are a lot of Mexican
Soldiers & we can see them with their
White uniforms on driving, riding & working
and occasionally shooting, but I am glad

to say no one has been injured for
a few days now. Probably as
these are Comanga soldiers & the Pres.
seems to be trying to arrange matters
without a battle, which makes us
feel more sore, as we all would like
one good scrap anyway before going
home. Now my dearest one don't give
yourself any uneasiness on my account
as I am after right in fine shape
only it seems as if I would give
a thousand dollars for a glass
of milk. The orders are for

15 or 20 days out on Patrol duty
and then Capt. Sweeney says we
are to have three months in camp.
here before going home, but he don't
know anything about it, I don't
believe, as if there is no trouble
we will be sent home before
that time you bet.

I have been working on the
pay roles, had to make up
official lists for state & also
for Government. Worked yesterday
morning from breakfast until
after dark & then Sgt. House said
I could get washed up before
lapse so I put on your nice clean
drawers & shirt & was awfully glad
I had them as they felt so good.
I got the box Saturday with the
underclothes in it. I also got
the Cottages and linen and was
awfully pleased to get them.

We have been given 6 shirts
+ drawers + 1/2 doz for socks
+ overalls + jumper + shoes
+ new thin uniforms, and I guess
we will need them as the
months of July + August are
worst in the year down here.
My dearest one I wish
with all my heart you were
here for my sake, but it
would be cruel to ask
you to come, into this desert
believe me this is the hottest,
driest, place in the world.

I killed a centipede yesterday
and spiders (all kinds) crawling
around. I haven't run across
a rattlesnake yet, but some
of the boys have. And you know
as Sargent can tell you that an
enlisted man has very little time
to himself. The officers have practically
all the time they want as they divide
up the drives but all we hear
is Fall in K. Co. first one
drive + then another. -

Oh my how I would like
to be in dear old Cool Cohasset
Say have you been in bathing
now dearest one I think it is

to bad for you to work as
hard as you have been doing -
Dont do it, let things go
for heavens sake keep yourself
well until I can come home
and take care of you, & do
go have Tilden's Utam take you
down to the beach & bath every
day, it will refresh you & make
your nerves better to stand this
trying ordeal, which so far I fear
as been worse for you than for
me, as all this sweating & melting
I feel is really of lasting
benefit to me as I am so big
& fat it will do me good, although
very uncomfortable.

I got into a Sunday morning
picture of our camp, & also a
picture of the Chicago Tribune and
Hearst's Boston American, I was
right in front with my dinner
as Hearst's man took a picture
so I suppose it will be in the
~~American~~ some time - this morn.
I am trying to obey my dear wife and
dont get but damn few unless ordered
to do so. Havnt been in to the City only
that once when ordered to go.

I am glad to get the paper & envelope
but am using up some envelopes I bought

cup in Kansas first.

I went to Church twice yesterday morning. before breakfast look in the Catholic sermon, & then rushed over & heard the Episcopal sermon - They were both good -

one man fell over in front of me & had to be carried off -

The heat knocks them out all right. I am glad Sargent & Helen are working together so well. I hope they always will be all in all to each other, as it is the only way to live happily together, to forget self & live for the other.

Gosh it must be 120 all right today, the sweat is running right down off my face while I write this letter & am sitting on my cot in the tent. No air! you know & we are almost surrounded by mountains so we are in a kind of valley I should call it. I tell Sargent that if he had remained in this outfit he would have led the Company now as Mealy is next to the Top Sargent now & marches ahead of us.

Well, doesn't one be of good cheer, it won't be long now until I come home to you & our one

I will try + write to everyone in
due time but they will have to
wait as it is impossible to buy
anything unless you do go down town

When I got my underclothes
etc to fit me there is a fellow
from Abington who is married +
wants to wash out my clothes for
1.50 a month. Do you think I could
afford to have it done or is
it too much to pay, I am sure
I don't know whether I ought
to or not. We will get paid

something soon now, as we have
just come back from signing
the payroll. Give my love to
Sister May + tell her I got a letter
from her + Give my love to Helen.

I suppose you will have a lot
of extra work while Sargent
is away with the mucking etc but
if you have too much trouble you
sell the cow for 100 -

How much hay did you get
in or did it all get wet, some
one said it rained the 4th in Cohasset

Sh. Melcher I think writes Co K.
letters for the Hingham Journal every
week - Good bye dearest.
Love to Mother + Father + Sister + joined
with a love for you dear one
Engell