

#1.
"War Letters" from Paul Sorvik
--Thomas Richardson

Camp Dodge
Des Moines, Iowa
November 8, 1917
Co. E. 313th Reg. of Engineers

Dear Brother Walter:

I received your letter last week and was very glad to hear from you again. How is the weather in North Dakota? It is pretty cold in Camp Dodge now, and we have to hike once in a while to get exercised and get our legs stretched. Tuesday we hiked eleven miles with full packs and a complete load of ammunition,--that load was heavy I'll tell you. I carried about 75 pounds altogether, including ammunition. When we got back at night, I just dropped on my bunk. The next day we were so stiff we could hardly move. This march was the longest that we have had for several months. But we'll get used to it after awhile. Tomorrow we have rifle practice.

We don't know when we will leave for France, but I hope it is soon, as all the boys are getting impatient to take a crack at Fritz.

I can't think of anything else to write, so will close.

Your brother,

Sgt. Paul Sorvik

P. S.--Write soon and tell me all about Cooperstown and yourself.

Camp Dodge, Iowa
Co. E. 313th
Reg. of Engineers

Dear Brother Walter:

In your last letter you told me that it was very cold up there. Well, it's just about the same here,--only the smoke freezes in the chimney.

No, Walter, a soldier's life is no snap, as you seem to think. How would you like to pack a nine-pound gun all day in the winter? Well, that's what we're doing now. Oh, by the way, how is that gun and holster that you got from Mrs. Helgeson? What size bullet does it shoot? The artillery is practicing every day, and it is sure some noise, believe me. Whenever they fire, the buildings shake and I wonder what keeps the windows from falling out.

To-day I was over at the base hospital with some candy and cigarettes for some of the boys of our Company that are sick.

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Letters from Paul Sorvik (Cont.)

One fellow broke his leg when he was wrestling and another fellow was bucked off a horse and broke his arm. I haven't been in Des Moines for some time now, but may go there in a week or so.

We haven't heard when we will leave for France yet, but will let you know when we do. Ask Harrald or Mother for Anna's address and send it to me as soon as you find time.

Your brother,

Sgt. Paul Sorvik

Grandchamp, France
December 17, 1918
Co. E. 313th Reg. of
Eng.

Dear Brother Walter:

I am just back from a seven day furlough which I spent at Chambery, France. It sure is nice to be able to go around the streets without the idea of getting sniped. Well, the long war is finally over; but I don't know when I will be able to come home. But I hope it is soon, because I am tired of the army. I've been in the army exactly 23 months and I think I need a rest.

The day that I got my furlough, I went to Chambery as I was telling you. I had a very good time there. All I did was eat, sleep, and take in the sights which were plentiful around there. Uncle paid all the expenses while I was there. Some Uncle, don't you think so? Our little village of Grandchamp is a nice little place. The inhabitants wear wooden shoes, which are sometimes very sharp in front. The houses or so-called billets are of stone with red tile roofs.

We do not know how long we are to stay here and when we move we don't know whether we will go to the "States" or to Germany. At the present we are practicing in Engineer work and Infantry drill; so we are by no means idle. Some days we have long hikes so as to keep in shape for anything we may be called upon to do.

We have had some very rainy weather but not very cold. I presume you think it queer that it should rain this time of the year, but the fact is, we have rain in place of snow which is perhaps more aggravating; at least I think so. But I prefer North Dakota and its snow and cold than the rain and mud over here. However, if Uncle wants me to stay over here a while yet, I'll certainly do so. When I come home, I'll bring a franc home so you can see what kind of money we have to buy food with and our other luxuries.

As I have nothing else to tell you I'll close.

Your brother,
SGT. Paul Sorvik

Letters from Paul Sorvik (Cont.)

P. S.--Write as soon as you find an opportunity. Regards to all.

Card (Back Side)

February 6, 1919
(Date)

Dear Mother:

I am now stationed at Maatz, France
(Name of place)
with Co. "A" 307 Engineers Regiment
(Organization)
and am in the best of health.
(State of health)

Sgt. Paul Sorvik
(Name of soldier)

NOTE:--This card is furnished to enable each soldier to notify his family as to his present location, organization and condition of health under the provisions of G. C. No. 15, C. S., G. H. C. A. E. F.

Front Side of Card

<u>Sgt. Paul Sorvik</u> (Name)	:No stamp : :required if : :name and : :organization : :is placed : :in upper : :left corner : :.....corner :
<u>Co. "A" 307 Eng. Reg.</u> (Organization)	
<u>Mrs. Ole Sorvik</u> (Name)	
<u>Box 211</u> (Street and Number)	
<u>Cooperstown</u> (City)	
<u>North Dakota</u> (State)	

Maatz, France
February 16, 1919

Dear Brother Walter:

We are still in France, as you see, and are waiting orders to go home; but those are slow in coming. We have had snow

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Letters from Paul Sorvik (Cont.)

off and on but the most that we have had is 2 inches and that just melted and made the roads bad. But that's nothing compared to North Dakota snow, is it? When I come home, I am going to try and bring some souvenirs back, but I don't know yet for sure. Nearly every one of the boys have some kind of a souvenir and I am going to try and bring my trench equipment. We can bring them, but we won't have any place to put them and our sacks are full. We could wear most of them but a soldier is mighty glad to get that armor off him.

I am in the orderly room writing this and one of our lieutenants is kidding me about writing to my girl. I'll bet if I told him I haven't any, I'll bet he'd call me a liar.

Well, Walter, duty calls me so will have to close for this time. I will be waiting for my return letter soon.

Your brother,

Sgt. Paul Sorvik
Engineers Regiment.