

October 12, 1862
Camp Chase

Dear Parents: Have received your letter and see that you are still well, as I am also. I have gained weight and believe I may be 12-15 lbs. heavier. They all say I am getting fat. We were in Cincinnati and from there over the Ohio River to Camp King. There are lots of soldiers there and every day more are arriving. I think in an area of 15 miles there are 400,000--it is black as far as you can see. The 115th Regiment with which I am, has been divided into two parts. The first section stayed in Cincinnati and mine came to five miles from Columbus. We are to oversee prisoners. This camp ground covers about 800 acres--all flat land. We have 115 hundred Southern prisoners. There are also about 500 drafted men here from Ohio. We may possibly be here all winter, but we are not sure. Other news I don't have and know nothing else to write this time. Lots of Greetings and wishes. Your loving son and brother.

D. C. Miller, Camp Chase Ohio.
Co. B. 115th Reg. O.V.I. c/o Capt. L. F. Hake

Cincinnati, Ohio
7 May 1863

Dear parents, brothers and sisters,

I received your letter with happiness and good health. I am sorry I haven't been able to send you any money. I am waiting on it every day. I do not know much news, except that we imprisoned a bad man. He spoke up in public too much. He was a Copperhead and a leader of the Rebels here in the North, and we caught him in Dayton, Ohio. There are a lot of these buttersocks in Dayton and they speak up against the government and we figure it will be very bad for them. We had to take him across the River to Covington to the jail because we feared trouble from the Rebels who wanted to rescue him. We are well equipped with weapons. There are 700 soldiers here besides two brass cannons which can shoot a ball of 25 lbs. , so let them come. The other day one of our men was shot accidentally by a comrade who was joking and was unaware that the gun was loaded.

(letter has eight lines cut out here)

I got a letter today from Johann Hodle who lived across the street from us. I didn't get a letter from Rosal Hodle. Are they both back in Cleveland or where are they? I will close now hoping that this little bit of a letter sees you safe as it left me.

June 6, 1863
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Parents, Brother and Sisters: Received your letter five minutes ago and see that you are all well except mother and father complaining of backache. That will soon be better and I wish it for you. I am thankful to say I could hardly feel any better. Last Tuesday I had to go away with one that belonged to the 77th Ohio Regt. He was home on furlough for 20 days. When he wanted to return there was no boat and so he was a week late in arriving in Columbus. They picked him up as A.W.O.L. and brought him to Cincinnati. Then I had to take him to his regiment at Alton, Ill. It took us from three in the afternoon until the next morning at nine, to reach it. It was 395 miles. It was nice trip on the railroad for me. We had to go through all of Indiana and Illinois to the Mississippi River to get there. There they had 4,500 prisoners which were taken last week at Vicksburgh. Illinois is so flat-we came over one section of about 20 miles where there wasn't even a stump to be seen, only short grass, but the corn was already over a foot tall-the potatoes are blooming and the wheat is almost ripe. It is much cooler there than in Cincinnati. I had to wear my overcoat all the time until I came back here. I believe the state of Indiana is better than Ohio-the ground is real black. There are a lot of forests with big oaks etc. If I had the time I would have loved to go over by boat into the state of Missouri. Other than that I don't know anything new except like some others I get to take some prisoners to other places. I will try to get to go to Virginia or the state of Mississippi. Alton, where I was, is only five miles from the big city of St. Louis. With this I leave you in God's care-he can do the best for us. Until we can speak to each other directly again, a thousand greetings. Your son,

D.S. Miller, Co. B. 115th Regt. O.V.I.

P.S. Keep the picture neat.

July 15, 1863
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Parents: Received your letter and see that all is well with you, as it is with me. There was a big commotion here and in Indiana because that Rebel Gen. Morgan was in Indiana and destroyed railroads, bridges, depots and some towns and is now in Ohio. He is trying hard to get over the Ohio River but the gun boats are holding him back. Our cavalry are on his back and they say this morning they about have him surrounded. Here in Cincinnati everyone that can carry a gun has to go and most seem willing. The home-guard, or police, have received permission from Gen. Burnside that they can bring good horses here and exchange the tired ones. The Rebel Morgan would never have come to Indiana or Ohio if they weren't suffering from hunger and not that alone, the 15th and 5th Indiana Cavalry Regt. chased from Tennessee to Cincinnati. Here they are resting until this noon. With this I will close, since I have the watch duty now. Greetings and wishes from your son, Daniel Miller.

Cincinnati, Ohio
22 Sept. 1863

Dear parents, brother, and sister,

Received your last letter with much joy and was glad to hear that you are all in good health. I don't know much news and you can't always believe this news in the paper. General Rosecrans had a battle with the Rebel General Bragg and took away ten cannon and lost seven himself, but the Generals Burnside and Rosecrans will still give the old Rebel Bragg a hard time. Today I had guard duty at the Magazines, and they sent Rosecrans and Burnside over 100 boxes of shells and cannisters for 20 lb. cannon. A cannister is a tin box with 12 to 15 cannon balls in it. The cannon balls are packed in oblong tin boxes. Yesterday Sunday evening about 8:30 one of our cannoners came up the street by himself. Several of Valingham's men beat him and crippled him. He lost half of his foot on the railroad. One man from our company went to help him, but they threw tobacco in his eyes so he couldn't see. But then we all jumped on them and one of our men shot three of them.

Our Captain said if they start that again he will send them more lead and gunpowder. Everytime some of our men go down the street the Rebels all shout Hurrah for Valingham because he is a Rebel or worse.

Sunday morning 25 of our men came back from guard and a woman yelled for Valingham out of a window. Several of our men told her off. Tell father and Jacob they should think about who to vote for as a governor. If they like freedom they should vote for Broff. I am sending Rudolf some shells and I will bring you some breast pins home. I sold some for \$1.02.

Cincinnati, Ohio 5th ? 1863

Dear Folks: Was happy to receive your last letter and to hear that you are well. I am thankful for my good health. Dear Folks, I am enclosing ten dollars and will send ten in the next letter. It would be better to lose ten than the twenty at once. You can use it as you wish. If it weren't for Jacob and Rudolph, I wish that all young men from 18-30-40 would be drafted so that the war would soon end and if the generals weren't so interested in the money. I wonder that my pear tree is bearing only leaves. Thank you for the clipping on wine and plums. I imagine a lot of building has been going on there. How does Jacob like it at the mill? Imagine he will find it pretty hard. Don't know of anything new- last week a captain had an accident. A pistol was hanging on the wall and as he went by it fell down and the bullet hit him in the abdomen. He lives for a day and half a night. He was from Canton, Johann Harter. His father is with a Bank. He will receive a nice stone. With that I will close.

Your loving son,

D. C. Miller

Oct. 5, 1863
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Parents: Received your last letter and was so pleased to get it and I am so glad to hear you are well. I am well so far and don't have much news to tell you. We are still here and everything is okay. I don't think we will have to leave here for some time because we have a lot to guard. Every 2-3 days I get guard duty. We have been a year and a half in the service-that leaves another year and 10½ months until our time is over. I am thinking that maybe I could get home the end of this month. I am surprised to hear how often Jacob has to drill-he must belong to the State militia. Here in Cincinnati are also 3,000 Militia who drill every two weeks. I too would be happy to see Henry Petter again when I come home, but I couldn't read his address. I would like to write him too. Nothing further of interest, so I will close. Your loving son,

D. C. Miller

1863

24 December 1863
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters

I do not know much news. 36 men from our company B went twelve miles toward Nashville to make railroad ties 8 ft. long from cedar trees. It will probably take us 3 to 4 months because they want us to make 16,000 ties like those, but they are not pushing us and we are taking our time and we have enough to eat. Tomorrow is Xmas day and we don't do anything. We have already finished 1300 of those ties. Monday a week ago while we went through the woods to our work we saw four bushwhackers on horses in front of us but they were too far away to shoot at, but since then 3 of them have been ~~caught~~ caught by our Cavalry and will probably hang.

The Christmas day went by quietly and peacefully. We didn't have ~~any~~ any candy like we did for the last two yrs. It rained last night so we won't get much done again today. But tomorrow we will go deeper into the forest. The state of Tenn. is free now and gone back to the Union and the others will probably follow soon. (Last night we went to a rich Rebel farmer who had many chickens and turkeys. We asked him for some. He gave us 1 turkey and 16 chickens. If he hadn't done so freely we would have taken them by force. They tasted real good. This farmer still has 150 slaves but every day some flee to enlist. In Murfreesboro we have a whole regiment of about 1300 of such slaves who have escaped from their masters.)

With this I will close and wish you a healthy and happy New Year 1864, hoping to be with you again. (Here they have cotton seeds which are planted like corn and when it reaches one foot it is hoed.)

January 10, 1864

Dear Parents, brothers, and sisters,

Received your letter and heard that all of you are well, so am I. This time I don't know any news except that we have enough to eat, as much as we need. Since Christmas we have hardly been able to do anything because of rain and snow. 4 days ago we had 4 inches snow, which still has not disappeared yet. It was rather cold recently so that the snow froze again over night and we could not do anything because the trees were too slick.

We read this evening in a Canton newspaper, that the State Ohio has written to Washington and gotten the permission that we receive 25 dollars per month which the State Ohio will give voluntarily to its soldiers who are in the war. That would be fine and the State Indiana will give its soldiers 20 dollars per month. I think Congress will permit it. I believe that the war will soon be over because one sees that the people at home are more peaceful, they see that as long as they rebel at home there cannot be peace. I for my part would like to march 15-20 miles per day with knap sack and rifle if I would know that there will be peace in 4-5 months. None at home can sit a long time in their warm rooms and make calenders and we here like the wild Indians in the woods, who don't see anyone for weeks except our comrades we have made our tents quite warm, a ? like you under the ? But covered with big stoneflegs, so that they get almost glowing hot. We can sleep warm the whole night and get up in the morning without to rub an eye.

The "Bobschflies" I still get regularly, with this I want to close,
stay well, hope to see you soon and speak to you.

Just one more thing, is it true that they have made a fort in the town
under Bankstreet and that there are canons in it?

The cottonseed I took from an old barn in which I found more than
50 bushel, it will rot if it does not get to a dry place. There are
still large fields of it, which have not been picked. The plant gets
2-3-4 feet high, when it gets more it becomes brown like a chestnut,
There are 10-20-30 seeds on one plant as large as an egg. They
open when they get ripe, like a chestnut.

Durfreeshoro, Tenn.
January 23, 1864

Dear brother-in-law and sister,

I received your letter tonight well and with joy, and learned that you all are healthy and well which I like to hear only that Fritz is sick for so long is bad and I wish he will get better soon. As far as I can tell, I am still o.k. and have been that way as long as I have been in the U. S. Army. I only had a cold for three days while in Cincinnati. I couldn't speak for 2 days and had to drive everything away with red pepper and vinegar, since then I have been fine. I wish the same to you all. There is no news except that we will have to wait 6 to 7 weeks until we get our 15,000 -. And we still have enough to eat. We get good spring water, (the General ~~Weeks~~ ^{Rowan} has told us that we should take our time for that which we certainly do.) one only has to make 10 ^{water} ^{tea's} per day. I can easily do them in 2-3 hours, then I am free for the rest of the day. As we have heard definitely we are under a French general with the name of ^{Rowan} Russ and belong to the 2nd Brigade, 4th Army Corp and the 3rd Division, 4 Reserve. We also got tonight new in Field rifles and one old musket which we got in Cincinnati and stored with pleasure in a box.

We have and had over 8-9 days very warm and beautiful weather. You can imagine when the wild doves are flying and the cats are crawling in big masses and the birds are singing their praise songs in the morning - that there should be peace soon in this country so that the Yankees cannot destroy all this. We have also shot more than 50 hares since we are

there and when a young pig comes to our khazuka lives, it will be seized and
treated like a rebel, so much better than they. With this I would like
to close hoping that you will receive these few lines in as good health
as they have left me. Write me soon, I have not had a letter for more
than 3 weeks. You must believe that I am astonished not having heard
from home for such a long time. Keep well. Many thousand greetings
and wishes from your loving brother and brot er-in-law.

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P.S. Whereif you can send this letter to Cleveland if you want to.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Feb. 15, 1864

Dear parents, sisters and brothers,

I received your last letter today at noon allright and with much joy, and I read that you are still well. I also am well and all right and wish the same for you with all my heart. There is not much news, only that I and Bashhof are working already for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days at the monument of which I have talked in my previous letters. We like this work very much and can work when we want to. We start in the morning round 8:00 or 8:30 and finish at 4 PM or so. I can't tell yet whether we shall get extra payment for that, but the supervisor surgeon told us that General Heson will treat us well. I could get a vacation for 30 days to come home, but I need the 15.20 dollars, yet if you want me very much to come home, I will gladly do it. I would like to to come home, for it is long ago since I saw you last. I got a letter last week from Fox at that time he was still in a Camp Division 15 miles from Cincinnati, and there we are already waiting for them to get the order to leave.

His address is: Mr. Sergt. Joseph C. Fox
Co. H, 2nd Bat. 9th O.V.C.
Camp Division Ohio

Hirty's last letter I have not received. Did you get the letter which I wrote to Walter with the cottonseeds in it, and one.....

When I was in the woods there are many more trees than are marked here, I have been there where you see number 1. With these few lines I must quit. The next time I shall write more, when I know more, I want to send your father another Brestplate this week. You don't have to polish the other. Live well, and hope to see you soon. Many thousand greetings and wishes from your loving son and brother.

On the 14th I was 26 years old.

March 22, 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

Our captain said that none will be able to go home until the sick and wounded are gone home from the hospitals. These orders are supposed to come from the General, but it should not be long until we can come home and I will be one of the first. So be patient, for a short time, it will all be good in the end. I send you here 10 dollars. Perhaps we get paid next week. Otherwise no news. I heard from Casper Fuds, they were in Nashville, 30 miles north from here. He thought that they would come by here, but has not been here yet. Last week I was there, hoping to find him there, but there are too many troops, I could not find him. I think they have gone another direction. I went with 100 wagons, each wagon had 6 donkeys in front, it didn't cost me a cent. (Nashville is quite a big town and the streets are as narrow as in Borug and beside the town runs the big Cumberland River and across this river about 60-70 feet high goes a bridge like in Cleveland across the ? River, but twice as long and the railroad goes over it. The town hall stands on a big hill in the middle of the town, around this big building they have built brick walls with 5 big canons inside. Around this whole town they dug a deep ditch. With this I must close, hope all are fine. When I come home I will tell more.

Love from your son and brother

April 7, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sisters,

Each day here pass by 1-4-5 thousand soldiers going to the front. Today again 6 thousand new soldiers from Indiana came, they too are going farther, to the south, will only stay here 1-2 days. I and Kris Hill work on the monument. But we cannot do much because of the Spring rain. We have about 3-4 days rain each week, but the wet season will soon be over and the dry and warm days will begin. We heard that we will probably stay here all summer long, perhaps also the coming winter. We hope that we will soon have opportunity to list as veterans, there we will be able to come home for 30 days. Write me what you think about that the war cannot last a whole year, as the rebels say themselves.

You say that you would like to buy us more lot. I think so too and want to do my best for you. According to the newspaper we will get from you. Put on 18 dollars per month, which would be fine, yet I cannot see it, but hope it.

I wonder where Fuds is now, I have not gotten any letter from him since they were in Nashville. Has he written to you where he is now? I can read your writing well, for your writing (letters?) I want to send you a ring as payment. We will have en ough to eat and drink and since Feb. 19th have I worked 14½ days on the monument. Otherwise we have nothing to do. We have very good times. Last week I weighed 166 pounds.

Hope all are fine, greetings and best wishes.

Your son and brother

April 19, 1864

Dear parents, brothers , and sisters,

Last Sunday night at 9 o'clock 30 rebels came close to our outposts, but they disappeared soon. From our regiment from Company PC 35 got on their horses but they didn't find them any more, because the rebels were also on horses.

We also expect to hear about a great battle, because the large Cumberland army is moving further into the South. Also two long railroad trains came by last Friday filled with planks, moving toward the army. This answers that something is going to happen. I decided not to re-enlist, for I have no more than 16 months to serve and these are long enough, if they pass as fast as the 18 passed ones I will be glad. We still work on the monument. The silken cord pleases me very much, it is long enough. I have exchanged my old watch which I bought from Rudolf for \$11.00 for a ? watch, for which I could get 20 dollars. But below \$25 I will not give it away. I payed \$14.00 for it. I hope that we get paid next week again, then I will try to send home \$20. I have not gotten fathers letter yet, I would like to get a letter from Father. I have not gotten a letter from Fuchs, since he was in Nashville, I won't write him until I get a letter from him. I got a letter from Rudof, they are all well. There are still passing by so many soldiers, going South to the front. Also a regiment of Negroes came by last week, they are so proud to carry a rifle, most of them have been slaves.

Greetings.....

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
21 May 1864

Dear Parents,

Your last and first letter I received in good health and was glad to know that you were well too. I do not know much news this time, only that we will probably stay here all summer because there are a lot of bushwhackers in this area. Last week nineteen of our company R went 12 miles through wilderness after these bushwhackers. They met up with them in a little village called Shelbyville. We killed two Rebels and took 2 donkeys and 1 horse. We lost one of our good men who was shot through the heart, he died after 15 hours. We shipped him home to Mesfion eight miles from Canton. He was the first one we lost because of the Rebels. Three weeks ago Christie and I were at the monument which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from our outpost but we didn't feel much like working on it that morning so we walked five miles through the woods until we reached a road then back again to our camp. We didn't carry any rifles or pistols with us, only our lunch. The bushwhackers sure could have caught us, but we didn't see any. And we were in a part of the woods where a part of one of the hottest battles was fought. But we are getting used to all this shooting.

Please write again soon. I can read your letters well but do not forget to sign them. Here are ten dollars. Farewell til we see each other again. When we do we will drink several glasses of beer again.

June 4, 1864

Dear parents,

There are many news, but I have not time to tell them all, for this Sunday morning 60 of each company will go to the railroad between here and Nashville to guard it. I don't know where our company is supposed to go. But I think we will get to the place were we made railroad tracks last summer. I believe that we can get over this time until we can go home. The 33rd Indiana Regiment is at this depot and fortress from M to Nashville, I also think that it is time it is almost over.

With this I will close.....