Letters from Cpl. William E. Green to his Mother

1943 – 1945

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September 18, 1943

UNITED Vear mos 4 to a 4 fai

(Page 2 unavailable.)







toper 1, 1943 Georgia. the dogs I your letters that you see the dogs. I mene seet me some co and I it was you also east it, that but. It didn't last long at all e letter stated that you enclosed it but Id bu sm h you'd er 9 4 & this waiting in line sulper water ret. more tra to sign ted to hun The Bane. Training . Infanty Center . School . D'is got no time left to do a Uni thing so. but night. V.-r mill Jane But

October 1, 1943

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN







October 18, 1943

EIGHTH COMPANY FOURTH TRAINING REGIMENT A.S.T.P. FORT BENNING, GA. Jund Dear mon e so mas gur tletter the that 8 em RIL ie very de a the ma case, but a 15 at il 8 e -a hat' is son Spist write to your, makes me fe t t Shnow, br m me an tat h Ed ja re the arr 96 \$0 ttin me ge fe itso vel cam almos Fred u Wal all day mar u to A I the colonel 34 ast n P. etc. n out 2N as u atta a Que ditorts, a are hs N the £ 8 cant e tu 24 altach the The the e , gun aloue 50 er t Oh re u il to all -rea to see it 2 2 n

(Page 2 unavailable.)







February 21, 1944, Page 1

February 21, 1944 A*5*T*P EAST LANSING Sunday. Dear mom, Nere's a little official news just hat If the writes It lost like we're get very little time here. This are herd of against med gues. It losts like combat Infantey for me with no questions I saw a undeful movie today. Really wondeeful, you should see it if you get the churce. It was "For whom the Bell Tolls". The acting is certainly the best new. You fieldly know more about the characters them I do, but Maria Robert Rablo and Pilar are all patraged everlently. The movie is very longs about 2'z his and everyminute worth it. The theator was filled all shows and seats were at 1.10 aprice. The photography was technicolon at it's best. There were a lot of special effects used in plutographing it which were cutanily underful. It'et was firming that the first of the movie there was about \$5 minute of spanish numie and then The national authen, then the minie started. If it comes around trick be sure to see it before it gets cit. I'm some it'll be cut and the for it goes around again. Etim land hurr







February 21, 1944, Page 2

whether it follows the book or not, but even if it doesn't it makes a smell movie . Pon't miss it. I'm flamming mending a let of stuff home som as som as I get the landy bag back it I'll send a let of stuff. of stiff: no me seens to have the spirit of the stity hall around here. I Everyne seens to mot quie a darm any more. I guess I'll get elady and go to bed. It seens you never get enorgh slip. Jone Bill.

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN







March 3, 1944

Narch 3, 1944 EastLansing, MI Thursday Deas mon I appreciate your trying to help gestions but I don't thick the se situation all et's ba right ducetion. the y to do to go und com ther what kind I an are about a hont would this be if all the men did that grine ally put me on the shot with Capt. Pagne wate of what you told her to It seems his wife be phoned up and now I have to go 222 hen go to superiors I dmit want to tell the and This night and silley but that all my tiouter. I would practical mut the army way. if I did that ? no need to worry so dui t to wooned and get me in lifeble son't so had. Besides the acter ation PED. th Our supplacement here will anni defend laight or the needs e an It who runned. ter that sme of the who were flimhed out of AST.P. where. So my future Copes radio school. an Shitl Sher das it looks. tion as It all dependo the infantez. placed u the auty are at the time. the needs of hope that I'll get into metting wheel genean be used instead of my hains Jadun are going all regit here but there is unnow your around now. The PT. no are sufficied to change every & weeks neek of a ferrid is sufficient to end The 4th 1 but they're te for two e'd , a he said he it u turs weeks period. That' excellent the that aturial for the numous me of a card firm c whe she's get an AP.O. Coleman this munher but some how I don't the his left the A

(Page 2 unavailable.)







March 30, 1944 E. Lamerun -Thursday 38 199 Dear Evergone, well my time has come. all bags are packed and everything is ready to go. as the army can't be paid on any day but the last of the month we're to be faid at me number after madnight tonight. and' a mai time to say the level .. We have been told that we will eat breakfast here tomorrow though so Igness we don't leave til after backfurt. The latest rumor is that the tran leaves at 9:15 m . the morning, but no one know for mee. also another good runnor is that the artfet mere going to is the 76thilf. and that they're about ready for museas. Who have mayle a nonth from now till be overceas no one knows . at least were going to be paid and that' smething. I'm always glad to see Bloadie ; They're so much litre homo "Joy nept" really sounded smell Pm Congratulation on selling all cesto your reforms in the enail souded

(Page 2 unavailable.)







September 25, 1944

Saturday. UNITED STATES ARMY Dear mon, Well there's time for a short The latest is that we go m manuever for 2 oct 'till the 25th. I'll be down rold and pleantly miserall. after that we have at for good. Stipsticky on the note. It's sine terrible to get back after level ! tog being nearly a contraint afree a while. I guess I've really get the furlown blues, but I giele Q'M yet new it's I've men it's I have no that I'll start getting I have so that I'll start getting letters again I's terrible to get hack to this blues period and them not get letters for quite erme time. This is a fors exerce for a letter, but s'ne other yet buride Ine Rill

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN







December 31, 1944

Dear norm Here it is the last day of 1944, a which many hoped would be the We've got 1945 To look forward year. with bectory on Europe befor to, 2 often he 31, 19.45. wonder many years after V day in Earo e befor I see home again see I'm en a mood lo you ear We h aven't rec il yet . We keef telling an ill erne lon that it ourse nnn - tonnorrow we say the the The other day we do thing again . cieve some maga i the w re vies. of Mor. 27. just wish the letter J would come through The Jule of the how. 21 had

(Page 2 unavailable.) Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN







Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing. FROM TO MRS. ROY M. GREEN PASSED BY CPL. WM. E. GREEN 37485009 1900 So 40 45318 3 CN. CO. 304 INF APO 76 LINCOLN 2 NEBRASKA ARMY EXAMINER 40 PM NEW YORK, NY Read Russick CENSOR'S STAMP SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address above) Somewhere in France Jam 12, 1945. Dear mon, by be some time befor your get stel that I'm the nking this, but I want you to know I hope the you on your biothday today. a recting reach ed you b today other 9 trip up retty rough We're a as rough as it will be. There's but not cold. here and it P pretty snow or weather better fighting me furny to see the people tak Deemo A le to understa and not be al an myself for no apein ld pe ek Spartich The le here care tead . or money, but ail more Q. ford cloth and w , I guess we can chath th tu I'm all for the erience, though e of when las this is over Ine Bill REPLY BY HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? ADDRESS AT TOP?

January 12, 1945

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN







January 21, 1945, Page 1 ARMY UNITED, STATES Jan 2, 1945 Somewhal in France Dear nom I'm allowed to say we have vested such places as Seklaral auffay, Bauney, so dear what con- clussions you / can. The weather is almost imbearable. It's turibley cold, reported to be the coldest wrater w 40 yrs here in France. Ve are seeining more and more evidences of the was as we nome along. The are building ruined by bombs and artillen. We'de gradually learning to live in the cold although it was pretty bad atford. The girls & onece write of who enervere filleted with became quite fuendly and we really at to like them well. They asked us to white a sentence for the allone of them wate a sentence for it biddy I mus It uns quite mie what de wrote. He said that he was a "sympatheli" man who met mid liter the than and couldy she knew some americans to be. It made be realize that the actions of some americans made a ferson actually believe that there

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN







January 21, 1945, Page 2

ARMY UNITED were wild Indians and embory mi America The american they knew from Beatrace un a Major Federie Carstens, 493 FA, APO 262. were wild the formily. Rerl afor you has Bet to pel the Jone Bill







February 13, 1945 Linembourg 13 February 1495 Dear nom, The way your letters so it look a mail from me. I've writte after and they als en ly cal up too you and me for no n m Service as Ca army ~ Ketep 2x Oh herry a casua mare thing I thou わ to. at h do, to mo l Maybe U te not GA ray ure 2 p casuality Do a cu t my but it il probably in the hand cut in d Jon or anyth menn ach t t riging a d

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN





March 11, 1945: Letter from Capt. Edmund R. Lynn

HEADQUARTERS 304TH INFANTRY Office of the Chaplain APO 76 c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

11. March 1945

Mrs. Roy M. Green 1900 South 40th St. Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mrs. Green,

When you receive this letter you will already have known about the Loss of your loved one, Cpl. William E. Green, 37485009. May I add my deepest sympathy to those already given and to the heart-felt loss that is being experienced by those who knew William over here.

Your son was fatally wounded in action against the enemy on February 27, 1945 in the country of Germany. His body rests beneath a white cross in an American cemetery in Luxembourg, where many other American boys have been buried. His burial service was conducted by a Frotestant Chaplain with all reverence and faith due a Christian soul who has given his life that others might live.

Words, written or spoken, are poor messengers of comfort for a loss such as yours, but in behalf of William's officers and the men who trained and fought with him, we send cur deepest sympathy and want you to know that his loss is felt keenly here, too. May the Saviour Jesus Christ draw nigh unto you and give you the comfort that only He can give.

If I can be of any further service, don't hesitate to write me.

Edmund R. LYNN

Chaplain (Capt.) USA 304th Infantry







March 15, 1945: Article in the Lincoln Journal newspaper



William E. Green, son of Roy M. Green, assistant dean of the engineering school at the University of Nebraska, died of wounds in Europe Feb. 27, his parents have been informed by the war department. He was with the Third army. His parents reside at 1900 So. 40th.

Corporal Green was in his first year at the University of Nebraska when he entered service. Surviving besides his parents are two sisters, Mrs. Gregory Meyer, Wilmington, Del., a Nebraska university graduate, and Nancy Green, cadet nurse at the university hospital in Omaha; and a brother, Tom, first year student at Nebraska university.







Transcript September 18, 1943

(United States Army logo)

September 18, 1943 Friday

Dear Mom,

Here I am at Benning and I don't think I'm going to like it at all. It's kind of early to tell just how I'm going get along (sic), but it'll be plenty tough. The training is regular Infantry basic and will last 13 weeks. It'll be plenty hard on my feet.

Tomorrow we move and will be classified and take some more classification tests.

We all have to eat out of our mess kit instead of trays lik we had at the reception center. This camp is not nearly as nice as the reception center. The barracks aren't as nice and showers etc. aren't as good.

They tell us that we have two to weeks training in the field on maneuvers, but that comes near the end and we should be ready for it.







Transcript October 1, 1943

(United States Army logo)

October 1, 1943 Fort Benning, Georgia Thursday

Dear Mom,

I got the letter that you sent and the clogs (?). Someone sent me some candy and if it was you who sent it, Thanks a lot. It didn't last long at all.

Your one letter stated that you enclosed a clipping, which never was enclosed. I presume someone died, but I don't know who it is. I wish you'd enlighten me on the subject.

I just wasted 2 hrs. waiting in line to (____?) the payroll. More time wasted around this place.

You wanted to know.

A-rmy	B-asic.	T-he.
S-pecialist.	T-raining.	I-nfantry.
T-raining.	C-enter.	S-chool.
P-rograms.		

I've got no time left to do a million things so. Good night.

Love, Bill.







Transcript October 18, 1943

("Follow Me" logo) Eighth Company Fourth Training Regiment A.S.T.P. Fort Benning, GA

Sunday

Dear Mom,

Your last letter was giving me so much encouragement, I take it that my letters are very discouraging. Such may be the case, but I send the most discouraging letters home. Whenever I feel particularly low and I have to get it off my system I just write to you. That's really terrible, I know, but it makes me feel better at least. I did it at home and I'm still doing.

I'm getting so I like the army and I can almost stand the Infantry. The all day march on Friday wasn't so bad at least I'm still able to walk. We had everything so that march and the colonel was very pleased with our conduct, etc. We had real straffing (*sic*) attacks with out the bullets, a gas attack and bivouac under combat conditions, a few extra attacks from the air. The attacks by fighter plane are really beautiful to watch and I admit during the first attack I would have been a casualty. The planes came over at about 50 feet above the ground and they're really beautiful to watch. They're really preparing us for the real thing although I never hope to see it.







Transcript February 21, 1944, Pages 1 & 2

(ASTP logo) Michigan State College East Lansing

Sunday

Dear Mom,

Here's a little official news just hot off the wires. It looks like we've got very little time here. Things are kind of against me I guess. It looks like combat Infantry for me with no questions asked.

I saw a wonderful movie today: Really wonderful, you should see it if you get the chance. It was "For Whom the Bell Tolls". The acting is certainly the best ever. You probably know more about the characters than I do, but Maria, Robert, Pablo and Pilar are all portrayed excellently. The movie is very long about 2 1/2 hrs. and every minute worth it. The theater was filled all shows and seats were a \$1.10 apiece. The photography was technicolor at it's (*sic*) best. There were a lot of special effects used in the photographing it which were certainly wonderful. It' It was funny that the first of the movie there was about 15 minutes of Spanish movie and then The National Anthem, then the movie started. If it comes around Lincoln be sure to see it before it gets cut. I'm sure it'll be cut a lot before it goes around again. I don't know

(Page 2)

whether it follows the book or not, but even if it doesn't it makes a swell movie. Don't miss it.

I'm planning on sending a lot of stuff home soon. As soon as I get the laundry bag back I'll send a lot of stuff.

No one seems to have the spirit of the study hall around here. Everyone seems to not give a darn anymore.

I guess I'll get ready and go to bed. It seems you never get enough sleep.

Love Bill.







Transcript March 3, 1944

March 3, 1944 East Lansing, MI Thursday

Dear Mom,

I appreciate your trying to help my situation but I don't think the suggestions are in the right direction. It's just not the thing to do to go and see the unit commander about your troubles. What kind of an army would this be if all the men did that. You've really put me on the spot with Capt. Payne. It seems his wife wrote of what you told her so he phoned me up and now I have to go see him. I don't want to go to superiors and tell them all my troubles. This might sound silly but that's not the army way. I would practically be friendless if I did that. No need to worry so don't get to (*sic*) worried and get me in trouble.

Besides the situation isn't so bad. Our placement in the army after here will depend largely of the needs of the army at the time. It was rumored that some of the men who were flunked out of A.S.T.P where (*sic*) placed in Air Corps radio school. So my future isn't as bad as it looks. Still I'm liable to be placed in the infantry. It all depends on what the needs of the Army are at the time. I just hope that I'll get into something where my brains can be used instead of my brawn.

Things are going all right here, but (?) there's a prize rumor going around now. The P.T. instructors are supposed to change every 4 weeks. The 4thweek of a period is supposed to end this week, but they're not going to for two more weeks as he said we'd be shipped after that two weeks period. That's excellent material for the rumor monger.

I got a card from Coleman this week. He's got an A.P.O. number but somehow I don't think he's left the . . .







Transcript March 30, 1944

East Lansing Thursday March 30, 1944

Dear Everyone,

Well my time has come. All bags are packed and everything is ready to go.

As the army can't be paid on any day but the last of the month we're to be paid at one minute after midnight tonight. That's a nice time to say the least.

We have been told that we'll eat breakfast here tomorrow though, so I guess we don't leave 'till after breakfast. The latest rumor is that the train leaves at 9:15 in the morning, but no one knows for sure.

Also another good rumor is that the outfit we're going to is the 76th inf. and that they're about ready for overseas. Who knows maybe a month from now I'll be overseas. No one knows.

At least we're going to be paid and that's something.

I'm always glad to see "Blondie". They're so much like home.

Joy Night really sounded swell, Pam/Tom (?). Congratulations on selling all seats. Your reforms in the (_____?) sounded . . .







Transcript September 25, 1944

(United States Army logo)

Saturday

Dear Mom,

Well there's time for a short note.

The latest is that we go on maneuver for 2 Oct. 'till the 28th. It'll be darn cold and plenty miserable. After that we move out for good. It's strictly on the level.

It's sure terrible to get back after beg being nearly a civilian for a while. I guess I've really got the furlough blues, but I guess I'll get over it.

I'm trying hard to write everyone I know so that I'll start getting letters again. It's terrible to get back to this blues period and then not get letters for quite some time.

This is a poor excuse for a letter, but I've others yet to write.

Love Bill







Transcript December 31, 1944

England New Year's Eve '44

Dear Mom,

Here it is the last day of 1944, a year which many hoped would be the V. year. We've got 1945 to look forward to, with victory in Europe before Dec 31, 1945. I often wonder how many years after V day in Europe it'll be before I see home again. As you can see I'm in a mood this evening. We haven't received any mail yet. We keep telling ourselves that it will come tomorrow then tomorrow we say the same thing again. The other day we did receive some magazines for the week of Nov. 27. I just wish the letters would come through.

The "Life" of Nov. 27 had the . . .







Transcript January 12, 1945 V-Mail

Passed by 45318	То:	From:
Army Examiner	MRS. ROY M. GREEN	CPL. WM. E. GREEN 31485009
	1900 SO 40	CN. CO. 304 INF APO 76
(Censor's Stamp)	LINCOLN 2 NEBRASKA	C/O PM NEW YORK, N.Y.

Somewhere in France Jan 12, 1945

Dear Mom,

It will probably be some time before you get this, but I want you to know that I'm thinking of you on your birthday today. I hope the other greeting reached you by today.

We've had a pretty rough trip up 'till now, but not as rough as it will be. There's a lot of snow here and it's pretty cold. I hope we get better fighting weather.

It seems funny to see the people talk and not be able to understand anything. I could kick myself for not takeing (*sic*) French instead of Spanish. The people here care little for money, but are more concerned with candy, food, clothing, and tobacco.

I guess we can chalk this up to experience, though I'm all for the life of ease when this is over.

Love Bill.







Transcript January 21, 1945

(United States Army logo)

Jan 21, 1945 Somewhere in France

Dear Mom,

I'm allowed to say we've visited such places as Letlarve (*sic*) [Letlavre], Auffay, Bauney (*sic*) [Beauvais] so draw what conclusions you can.

The weather is almost unbearable. It's terribly cold, reported to be the coldest winter in 40 years here in France.

We are seeing more and more evidences of the war as we move along. The (*sic*) are building (*sic*) ruined by bombs and artillery.

We're gradually learning to live in the cold although it was pretty bad at first.

The girls I once wrote of who we were billeted with became quite friendly and we really got to like them well. They asked us to write a sentence for them and one of them wrote a sentence for a buddy of mine. It was quite nice what she wrote. She said that he was a "sympathetic" man and was not ruid (*sic*) like the Indians and cowboys she knew some Americans to be. It made me realize that the actions of some Americans made a person actually believe that there

(Page 2)

were wild Indians and cowboys in America. The American they knew from Beatrice was a Major Frederic Carstens, 493 FA, APO 262. Perhaps you know the family.

Got to put the mail out (?) now.

Love Bill.







Transcript February 13, 1945

Luxembourg 13 February 1945

Dear Mom,

The way your letters sound, it looks like your (sic) not getting any mail from me. I've written quite often and they should eventually catch up to you

Don't blame me for not getting any mail, because I'm writing at every possible moment. You can blame the Army Postal Service and the U.S. mail

Don't for Pete's sake, worry about me being a casualty. That's the last thing I thought you'd do. Maybe I'll do what some people do, and not write the truth so you won't worry. Some fellows do that and maybe they're right. I can assure you that I'm not a casualty and I probably won't be. I did cut my hand today, but it'll probably be healed up by the time this letter reaches you. I didn't cut it during enemy action or anything so don't start worrying about that.







Transcript March 11, 1945: Letter from Capt. Edmund R. Lynn

HEADQUARTERS 304TH INFANTRY Office of the Chaplain APO 76 c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

11 March 1945

Mrs. Roy M. Green 1900 South 40th St. Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mrs. Green,

When you receive this letter you will already have known about the loss of your loved one, Cpl. William E. Green, 37485009. May I add my deepest sympathy to those already given and to the heart-felt loss that is being experienced by those who knew William over here.

Your son was fatally wounded in action against the enemy on February 27, 1945 in the country of Germany. His body rests beneath a white cross in an American cemetery in Luxembourg, where many other American boys are buried. His burial service was conducted by a Protestant Chaplain with all reverence and faith due a Christian soul who has given his life that others might live.

Words, written or spoken, are poor messengers of comfort for a loss such as yours, but in behalf of William's officers and the men who trained and fought with him, we send our deepest sympathy and want you to know that his loss is felt keenly here, too. May the Saviour Jesus Christ draw nigh unto you and give you the comfort that only He can give.

If I can be of any further service, don't hesitate to write me.

Very sincerely yours,

Edmund R. Lynn

EDMUND R. LYNN Chaplain (Capt.) USA 304th Infantry







Transcript March 15, 1945: Article in the Lincoln Journal newspaper

William Green dies of wounds

William E. Green, son of Roy M. Green, assistant dean of the engineering school at the University of Nebraska, died of wounds in Europe Feb. 27, his parents have been informed by the war department. He was with the Third army. His parents reside at 1900 So. 40th.

Corporal Green was in his first year at the University of Nebraska when he entered service. Surviving besides his parents are two sisters, Mrs. Gregory Meyer, Wilmington, Del., a Nebraska university graduate, and Nancy Green, cadet nurse at the university hospital in Omaha; and a brother, Tom, first year student at Nebraska university.





