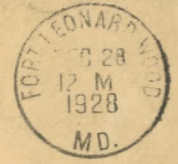


R. L. Jamies
Fort Leonard Wood
Maryland.



Major John Finch
% Adjutant General's Office, Colorado National Guard
State Capitol Bldg
Denver
Colorado

Ft Leonard Wood, Maryland.
December 28, 1928

Dear Finch:

Your card was a most pleasant surprise to me. Have wondered how you located me after several years.

Wanted to do something to repay your kindness in getting our Seventh Infantry officers photograph enlarged for me but the hurried scramble back in to the service in 1920 operated against it.

Was ordered directly to the Infantry School at Benning upon being commissioned. Had a short tour of duty with the National Guard of Arkansas and Missouri, then in 1921 reported at Iowa State College on R.O.T.C. duty. Taught infantry junior classes there in the "Advanced Course" two years. The armory burned down there, consuming my office and its contents, including the enlarged photograph which I had brought there intending to take it to town for framing. Had two years at South Dakota State College, then took the Tank School courses in 1925-26.

Was supply officer of the 16th Tank Battalion (light) during 1926. Since May 1927 I have commanded Company A, of the 16th Tank Battalion. Have always been lucky - like it fine.

The interpretation placed on the National Defense Act by the War Department in 1921 cost me over 2000 files. The enclosed editorial will explain it better than I can do so in a letter. Should the Black-McSwain bills pass it will restore those files to me, enable me to go to Leavenworth and thus round out my career. As it is now I am stopped. These bills demote no one, will not interfere with the present rate of promotion of those who wrongfully jumped from second lieutenants to captains and will not reduce their pay, ^{nor raise mine.} Had you stayed in you would be placed about as I am. If you care to, I would appreciate it very much if you would ask our Colorado representatives to support the Black-McSwain bills and send me their replies.

My children are over 16 and 17 now. The daughter will graduate from high school this year. The selection of a college is a problem which I have not solved.

The thought of a detail to duty with the Colorado National Guard has always appealed to me. Because of the Cavalry at Denver, Engineers at Golden and lack of Infantry unit at the Agricultural College, the only available details simmer down to infantry units at Delta and similar towns. The children's college attendance operates to stop me from trying to get such a detail now, much as I would like to have it.

If you could do so, by all means get yourself detailed to take the National Guard Officer's school at the Tank School. I presume you are in a cavalry unit. The cavalry is taking an increasing interest in tanks and armored cars. Our Experimental Mechanized Force work was interesting last summer. Was S-4 on its staff until it broke up on October first.

Have often thought of you and my other good friends in Colorado whom I have not seen for over eight years. Please remember me kindly to Chase. Often met officers from the old Seventh. Had a long talk with General Staden just last week. He wants all officers to get into the Third Division society recently reorganized in Philadelphia.

Thanking you for your kind remembrance and with our very best wishes to you and yours, I am,

Your sincere friend
R. G. St. James.

Number 2.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH INFANTRY,
American E. F., A.P.O. 740,
ANDERNACH, GERMANY, Feb. 26, 1919.

FROM: US UP HERE.

TO: YOU BACK THERE

SUBJECT: MORE NEWS!

1. Those of us who are up here were wishing mightily that all the old boys were back the other night. The occasion was a Regimental Dance, - the finest in the Rhineland, - in the ballroom of the Hohenzollern Castle at Narny, where Colonel Morrow ruled the Brigade during General Sladen's leave. Many girls, produced from miles around, and the spirit of the "Ould Seventh", inside and out, made our party a joy forever.

2. During the evening the Colonel presented Miss Dickson with a loving cup from the officers of the Regiment, to take with her as she starts for home after being with us ever since the Chateauvillain training area back in April.

3. The pictures of the officers of the regiment, taken about January 12th, have come at last. We will send you one for the small price of a letter telling what yourself and others of the Seventh are doing now.

4. Lieut. Col. Gaston left us a few days ago for a trip to Artillery School at Trier; - the Infantry is becoming versatile these days. Captain John S. Madden, whom we had not seen for months, arrived recently. Captain Brice rejoices in being once more the proud commander of "B" Company, which he took over the Marne in days of history. We've lost Richey temporarily; he is on Third Army duty as flight commander of a fleet of box cars carrying human freight between Coblenz and Aix-les-Bains. "Pink" Rolfe, whom we have been expecting to return, has deserted us for the men that "won the war" - the M.P.'s. Remember Pink; - he's on duty at Le Mans and may help you some day.

5. The Seventh Infantry football team is making a red-letter record. No score has been made against it by a team in a regular game and the goal line remains uncrossed in any kind of game. All the other infantry has already succumbed, the 4th by 18-0 and the 30th and 38th by default. The 6th Engineers came down last week with a fearful flood of boasts, and went back somewhat quieted by a 0-0 score. The Division team lost its game to IV Corps Troops on an intercepted forward pass in the last minute of play, in spite of the assistance of six 7th Infantry players.

6. Boxing, wrestling, cross-country and basketball are all going on in lively style, but the 7th Infantry's prize sport is just looming up - Baseball. We are making no promises, but there's going to be something doing in baseball on the Rhine this Spring. 1st Sgt. York is still with us to pitch, Sgt. Reardon is back from German prison Camps, Sgts. Martin, Najdek and a couple more of the old team are back. Then there's Captain Charley W. Thompson, Lieuts. Isham Williams, Daniel and Whitfield, besides the Coach and Manager himself, Captain Lombard, - ex of the Navy.

ROBERT DECHERT,
Captain & Adjutant, 7th Inf.

