

# PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

104 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603

[archives@pritzkermilitary.org](mailto:archives@pritzkermilitary.org)

312-374-9333

---

## Peter N. Henn World War I Letters Collection

**Creator:** Peter N. Henn  
**Dates:** May 1918-October 1918  
**Quantity:** 47 pieces  
**Acquisition:** Eileen Nichols on behalf of the Laffey Family, April 26, 2012  
**Identification:** PMML ID# 800120, OCLC# 794525144, Call# PAPERS 00104  
**Citation:** [Document Title]. The Peter N. Henn World War I Letters Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.  
**Language:** English  
**Finding Aid:** Leighann Wood; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

*Archival collections are stored at a remote archival facility. Please contact the Museum & Library at least 48 hours in advance of your visit to view an archival collection.*

---

### Biographical Note

Peter Henn, born in Chicago, Illinois, was a U.S. National Guard soldier of the 33rd Infantry "The Prairie Division", 108th Supply Train of Company B during World War I.

Beginning his training at Camp Logan in Houston, Texas it was only a couple of months later that the organization set sail for France. Peter writes to his family in good health and morale as the allied forces continue to make advances on the Germans. Though it is not clear whether Peter is as good as he claims, he writes to his family as such so as not to worry them while he is away.

Private Peter Nicholas Henn died on October 8, 1918 in France.

---

### Scope and Content of the Collection

The Peter N. Henn World War I Letter Collection contains letter correspondence to his family.

## Arrangement

This collection was received in no particular order. The PMML staff arranged the letters in chronological order beginning with the month of May, 1918.

---

## Rights

Copyrights held by the Laffey Family were transferred to the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. All other rights are held by the author or publisher. Users assume responsibility for following copyright laws as established by US Code Title 17.

---

## Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

## Names

Peter N. Henn

## Subjects

Illinois. -- National Guard -- Organization.  
United States. Army. Infantry Division, 33<sup>rd</sup>.  
World War, 1914-1918—Campaigns—France  
World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, American.

---

## Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
1	1		<b>Correspondence May 1918</b>	
		800120001	letter to parents regarding journey back to France, bathing, fried eggs, hot coffee, getting fat, France's Independence Day, travelling over 10,000 miles	5/18/1918
		800120002	letter to parents regarding travel on ship with bands, seeing fish, looking out for	5/29/1918

submarines, setting out from New York on the Hudson River

800120003 letter to parents regarding stay in France, money exchange rates, bands playing-puts "pep" in the fellows, one fellow getting sea sick 5/31/1918

**2**

### **Correspondence June 1918**

800120004 letter to parents regarding hearing interesting stories from Frenchmen, meeting a Frenchman that was on the frontline for 4 years, drinking cheap beer and wine, French can't get tobacco, 20 cents for a hatfull of strawberries 6/2/1918

800120005 letter to parents regarding being on duty for 14 hours, seeing a play called "Baby Mine" 6/3/1918

800120006 letter to parents regarding living in houses with French families, talking to Frenchmen with their hands, going fishing 6/11/1918

800120007 letter to parents regarding street cleaning, beautiful scenery, buying wine at certain times of day 6/14/1918

800120008 letter to parents regarding going to Confession and Communion, baseball game, plenty to eat 6/16/1918

800120009 letter to parents regarding Camp Logan, good eats, having good officers, communicating with their hands, French gasoline prices 6/18/1918

800120010 letter to parents regarding scarcity of mail in France, trip to \*censored\*, a friend, growing a mustache 6/20/1918

**Correspondence July 1918**

- |           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 800120011 | letter to parents regarding trip back to headquarters, receiving 23 letters, packages from Annette, visiting towns in France, wearing flower bouquets, weighing 108 lbs                     | 7/5/1918  |
| 800120012 | letter to parents regarding better treatment than in the U.S., dad working for Oscar Meyer, good eats, jokes he won't need a bed when he gets married-but a shell and a floor will be fine. | 7/6/1918  |
| 800120013 | letter to parents regarding an "Off day" on Sunday, going to mass, playing cards, YMCA entertainment, bank account deposit of 50 francs, hoping to be back for Christmas                    | 7/8/1918  |
| 800120014 | letter to parents regarding scarcity of mail, slow mail, can't write everything that he would like, souvenirs for parents and Annette   | 7/10/1918 |
| 800120015 | letter to parents regarding day off, rotten mail service, little kid of 3 years old they call their mascot,   | 7/12/1918 |
| 800120016 | letter to parents regarding false alarm, smoking cigars, battle on the ocean, taking another trip, reading a Chicago paper,   | 7/19/1918 |
| 800120017 | letter to parents regarding working on cars, different makes/models   | 7/22/1918 |
| 800120018 | letter to parents regarding receipt of letter from Annette and Jack (Barnes?) from Camp Logan, mail deletions, division victory, allotments   | 7/24/1918 |
| 800120019 | letter to parents regarding day off, clean cloyhes, inspection, parents' trip to Twin Lakes for "the fourth", trip too Berlin   | 7/25/1918 |
| 800120020 | letter to parents regarding getting fat on the job, going on a hike, Bordeaux, France   | 7/26/1918 |
| 800120021 | postcard to parents regarding sending a birthday present, a present for Annette   | 7/29/1918 |

**Correspondence August 1918**

- 800120022 letter to parents regarding putting bodies in trucks, meeting (Herbert?) Lacey, talking about Army life, attending a lecture at the YMCA, 8/4/1918
- 800120023 letter to parents regarding receipt of letters, letters from Annette and cousin Bill, moving again, working on a ship, glad of hearing mother and Annette getting fat, seeing meat from Oscar Mayer, seeing Henry Mohleber (?), 8/7/1918
- 800120024 letter to parents regarding busy day working on cars, getting photo taken, big advance being made, perhaps home by Christmas, nice breeze from the ocean, dust from head to foot 8/10/1918
- 800120025 letter to parents regarding receipt of mail from Annette, trip for the "fourth" (July 4th), letters to other boys, trip to Berlin soon, same weather as Texas 8/11/1918
- 800120026 letter to parents regarding completing a trip of 125 miles, half mile from the ocean, sending souvenirs, walk by the ocean 8/12/1918
- 800120027 letter to parents regarding hot weather, half-day off, no baseball at home, Germans falling back everyday 8/14/1918
- 800120028 letter to parents regarding working long hours on a boat, laughing at receipt of pictures 8/15/1918
- 800120029 letter to parents regarding receipt of letter from Mrs. Barnes (?), allies are doing great work, trying to capture a loose bull 8/17/1918
- 800120030 letter to parents regarding day off, going to mass with a few boys to a beautiful church in town, amusement at YMCA 8/18/1918

800120031	letter to parents regarding getting a sheet of paper from a friend, being in Germany within the next four months, advancing every day, sharing papers around the regiment	8/18/1918
800120032	letter to parents regarding one year anniversary of being in the army, entertainment at the YMCA	8/19/1918
800120033	letter to parents regarding hoping finishing the job this summer and then head home, eating fried chicken, cucumber and endive lettuce, receiving a Chicago paper	8/19/1918
800120034	letter to parents regarding 24th birthday, sending packages, in France women are doing all the work, French "dolls"	8/21/1918
800120035	letter to parents regarding receipt of letters, one from Annette, canning preserves, enclosing a photo, Leo (?) wrote that they sold the car	8/23/1918

5

**Correspondence September & October  
1918**

800120036	letter to parents regarding a quick stop to gas and oil up before continuing on journey, expecting to see Fred on of these days	9/2/1918
800120037	letter to parents regarding long trips through the mountains, receiving fruit from farmers, didn't have time to meet Bill and Fred, receiving letters from Annette and Edgar and Mrs. Day, won't have a chance to write for a couple weeks	9/9/1918
800120038	letter to parents regarding working on the front, offices are too busy to sort mail, being pretty close to Fred and Bill, good eats-but not as good as mom's, beautiful scenery	9/12/1918
800120039	letter to sister Elizabeth regarding dirty paper, YMCA can't provide more than one sheet at a time, attached letter to sister Marie	9/13/1918

800120040	letter to parents regarding receipt of letters, papers from Mrs. Day- <i>The Paris Editions</i> , seeing some great air battles, captured prisoners, being close enough to hear cannons	9/16/1918
800120041	letter to parents regarding losing a little weight, doing his share of work, going for a walk with a pal, meeting a YMCA man,	9/20/1918
800120042	letter to parents regarding working long shifts early in the morning until late at night, shell holes in the walls as windows, tattered up church shelled by the Germans, receiving a Chicago paper from Annette	9/24/1918
800120043	letter to parents regarding waking up from a nap, receipt of letters from Annette, allies bombarding the Germans, using a crane to lift shells into canons	9/26/1918
800120044	letter to parents regarding receipt of letters from parents, Annette and Tony, Germans getting "licked" pretty bad, visiting with boys that came back wounded, received a letter from Jack Barnes(?) from Camp Logan	9/27/1918
800120045	letter to parents regarding still "chasing Fritz", soon marching in Berlin--not soon after hoping to march down Michigan Ave.	9/29/1918
800120046	letter to parents regarding great advances the allies are making, went on a walk with Fred, went into a cathedral, eating supper and calculated big victories, allotment money	9/30/1918
800120047	letter to parents regarding how happy everyone is celebrating the victories, allies giving the Germans an awful beating, lots of noise	10/2/1918