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Hiram W. Johnson Papers
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San Francisco, Cal.,
October 24, 1917.

Captain Archibald M. Johnson,
144th Field Artillery,
Camp Kearney, Linda Vista,
San Diego County, California.

My dear Archie:-

You see I am beginning just as I did before, with an interminable correspondence. You can have the peculiar sensation that comes to all of us under such circumstances, of receiving now from your own office, a letter, for I am dictating this in your room, at your table, and with the surroundings with which you are so familiar.

We went home last night feeling as two old people necessarily would feel at the departure of their loved-one upon the great unknown adventure. Mother has really been quite wretched but I am hoping that a very brief time will make her philosophical.

It was good of you to telegraph this morning and I trust during the day we may hear of your safe and pleasant arrival.

This morning, for the benefit of the Liberty Loan, apparently, the Olympic Club published the roster of the Grizzlies and I send you herein the advertisement. I thought perhaps you would not be able to obtain the Examiner and that you might be interested in it.

A.E.J. # 2.

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I think that very few of your organization have any understanding of what they are now going to. They have been at Tanforan for two and a half months; have been there the whole show, dependent upon themselves, it is true, but, nevertheless, acting according to their own sweet will.

They go now where they will be an insignificant unit in 35,000 men, with strict disciplinarians directing their movements, and where they become a cog in the great machine, rather than the machine itself.

I know how adaptable you are and how unnecessary it is for me to give you any advice.

If you should happen to have superior officers in whom you have no confidence and for whom you have no respect, you must watch yourself very very carefully. Remember, you are in a new world but the extraordinary independence of our tribe can find no expression in that world; that you are in a straight-jacket and must only move as those who tie your bonds permit.

I would not, of course, have you be other than yourself, but you must scrupulously obey the rules of the game and fashion yourself to your environments. I have no doubt but that you will do so but watch yourself, lad.

To-day is the great parade. I have no stomach for parades or for vocal vociferation of my patriotism. Yesterday every dollar I had I put in liberty bonds and I feel

A.F.J. # 3.

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that yesterday we gave our son as well. Our patriotism
needs no loud protestations.

You don't know how our hearts are with you, nor
how much love we send you. We are very proud of you and
filled to overflowing with tenderness for you.

Affectionately,

H.W.J./C.M.

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 14, 1917.

Captain Archibald M. Johnson,
144th Field Artillery,
Camp Kearney, Linda Vista,
San Diego County, Cal.

My dear Arch:-

Received your letter yesterday. I am glad your quarantine is over. I am writing you now just before taking about a dozen of our fellows out to the Cliff House for lunch. It is the first attempt at any sort of a conference that I have made here but this will not rise to the dignity of a conference. I did want to see some of them and talk to them before I departed.

My present intention about coming to San Diego is as follows: we will leave here Tuesday night, the 27th; reach San Diego Wednesday night; be with you Thanksgiving day, Thursday, the 29th, remain Friday, Saturday and Sunday, departing for the east Sunday night.

By this means I will lose the first two or three days of Congress but it is the only way in which I see that we could have any real time with you before our departure.

My understanding is that with your night lectures it is extremely difficult for you to get off and for us to come at any other time would simply interfere with your important work and probably we would be unable to be with you at all.

I would be very glad if on receipt of this letter you would send me to your office, collect, a wire stating whether you approve this schedule, or whether it would be more convenient and better for us to come the week prior to Thanksgiving and be with you Saturday and Sunday and then take our departure on Monday.

My present idea is to leave San Diego for Washington without again returning here.

Mother is getting together your polo things today to send to you as you requested.

All our love,

November 19, 1917.

Captain Archibald M. Johnson,
144th Field Artillery,
Camp Kearney, Linda Vista,
San Diego County, Cal.

My dear Arch:-

I returned last night from our trip to the country. We went on the boat Friday night leaving Sacramento early Saturday morning, immediately driving from the boat to Colfax where I saw Arlett.

I was with him for an hour and a quarter, the length of time which it was thought I might, without harm to him, talk to him, and while I maintained a great cheerfulness and endeavored to entertain him, I left utterly depressed.

He is about a mile from Colfax in Dr. Peer's colony. He lies in bed in one of those cloth and gauze houses amidst the pines and is making the supreme fight, apparently, grimly and courageously.

He looks well. He has none of the appearance of the tubercular patient but he has been in bed now pretty nearly over two months and must continue until he has at least three continuous days of normal temperature.

I asked Dr. Peer very searchingly about his condition and the doctor told me that he was a very sick man but with a chance; but it was impossible to prognosticate about individual cases and that he might ultimately recover.

I felt how insignificant were all our troubles and our ills, our vexations and apparent difficulties in com-

A.M.J. # 2.

parison with his.

We reached Sacramento Saturday evening and early Sunday morning went to the River Gardens Farms with Jack and Dr. Dow. Dow certainly has a tremendous and varied task which, apparently he is performing with remarkable ability.

This morning Mother and I have been talking of our trip tp San Diego. We have definitely determined, as I wrote you last week, to leave here Tuesday night and Mother and Miss Baker will go right through to San Diego getting there early in the afternoon. I will leave the train at Los Angeles Wednesday morning and take the afternoon train from Los Angeles to San Diego.

We will be with you then Wednesday night, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will leave San Diego for Washington 8 o'clock Monday morning.

As the time approaches I feel the old tugging to remain here. I really don't care to go back. I am seriously thinking of forming a legal connection which will contemplate your entrance on your return. This would not interfere with the performance of my official work, nor preclude me from spending my time in Washington as might be required of me. I will talk it over with you when I come down.

There was just a little squib in yesterday's paper about the Review in San Diego. It said that the Grizzlies received special applause. I have wondered if you were at the head of them.

A.M.J. # 2.

parison with his.

We left Sacramento Saturd

A.M.J. # 3.

I should have liked to have been present at the Review but because of our early departure and intention to spend next week with you it was quite impossible.

There was another reason also which was of little consequence and that is the Mayor of San Diego invited me to be present the day before the beginning of the celebration at a time when it was impossible for me to reach San Diego in time for the commencement of the celebration. This is San Diego.

As I have no doubt Mother has written you, Amy is in the hospital but is very much better at present.

We are looking forward now and counting the hours until we can be with you.

Affectionately,

November 20, 1917.

Captain Archibald M. Johnson,
144th Field Artillery,
Camp Kearney, Linda Vista,
San Diego County, Cal.

My dear Arch:-

I received this morning your telegram and I thoroughly understand the difficulties under which you labor in endeavoring to keep up any correspondence. You need not feel it necessary to wire me when you can't write for I realize that whenever it is possible you will let us hear from you.

Just a week from to-day we leave. The weather here has been glorious and I have enjoyed it so much of late that I dislike exceedingly to go. I know your Mother feels the same way and I am sure we will be less reconciled to our departure after a few days with you at San Diego.

The war looks worse and worse. I have never doubted since the Italians began to run that the Germans, in a brief period, would reach Venice. This morning's news would indicate that they have turned the eastern flank of the Italian line, and, if so, it can't be long before they crumple up the whole army.

I have read with intense interest Lloyd George's criticisms of the Allies' strategy and his demand for a central War Board. His speech in his defense yesterday in the House of Commons seems to me unanswerable.

I have followed Northcliffe's utterances and apparently, if we read between the lines, there is intense dissatisfaction in France and England with the conduct of the war and gross

A.M.J. # 2.

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inefficiency. Of course, all this will be eliminated with the arrival of Colonel House.

Mother and I are rather out of commission to day because Judge Dunne and his friends made one of their all night visits last evening.

Our thoughts are all now upon our trip to San Diego.

Affectionately,

November 22d, 1917.

Captain Archibald M. Johnson,
144th Field Artillery,
Camp Kearney, Linda Vista,
San Diego County, California.

My dear Arch:-

Accidentally I happened to observe a list of bills of yours here in the office the other day. I want to attend to these for you. Don't give yourself any uneasiness or bother about them but let me take them and feel that it is my little contribution. I really would greatly appreciate it if you would do this. I will take the matter up with you when I come down.

We are elated over the latest news from the Western Front. Of course, from this distance and out here, those of us who know nothing of military matters can direct the strategy of the campaign far better than General Bing or Colonel Bung, or Sir Duglous Haig or My Lord Decusce, and therefore, we, in our superior wisdom, would continue through the hole made in the Hindenburg line, firing all of our men through it, and just continuing to go until we got into the enemy's country.

However, General Bing and Colonel Bung will probably decide otherwise.

Their victory is certainly most heartening after the Russian collapse and the Italian defeat.

A.M.J. # 2.

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It will serve to break the force of the capture of Venice by the Germans.

I am expecting each day the Italians to make another strategic retreat and to deliver all Northern Italy to the invaders.

I am really inclined to think all of you will be ordered over very shortly. We are boasting now of our predominance in the War Councils and Lloyd George called on us yesterday for a million men. Naturally we shall have to respond. I hope the War Department does not become hysterical and send unseasoned men into the trenches.

We are counting the days until we see you next week.

Affectionately,

A.M.J. # 2.

It will serve to break the force of the campaign