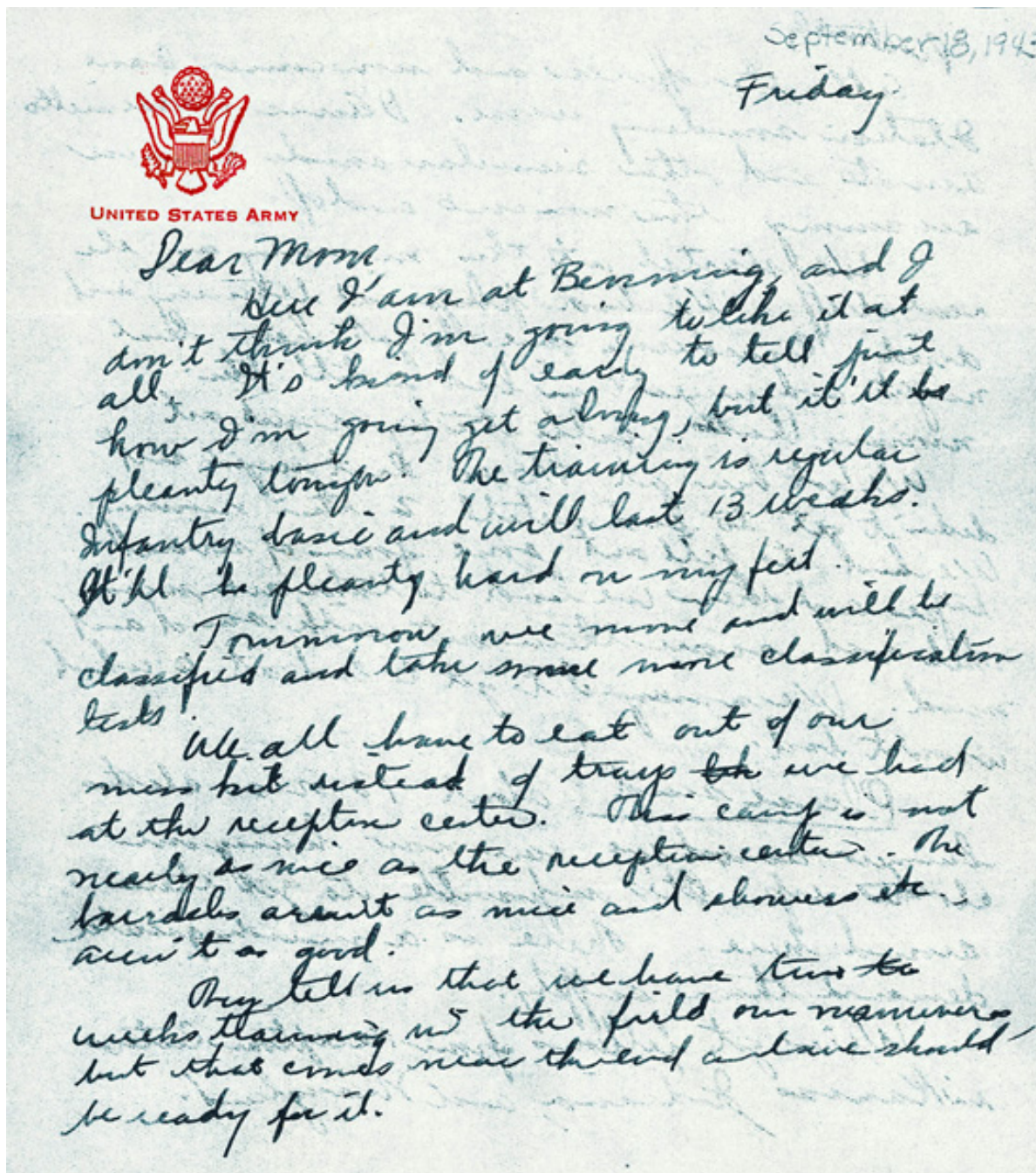


*Letters  
from  
Cpl. William E. Green  
to  
his Mother  
  
1943 – 1945*

September 18, 1943	2
October 1, 1943	3
October 18, 1943	4
February 21, 1944 (2 pages)	5
March 3, 1944	7
March 30, 1944	8
September 25, 1944	9
December 31, 1944	10
January 12, 1945: V-Mail	11
January 21, 1945 (2 pages)	12
February 13, 1945	14
March 11, 1945: Letter from Capt. Edmund R. Lynn	15
March 15, 1945: Article in the Lincoln Journal newspaper	16
Transcripts	17

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN

September 18, 1943

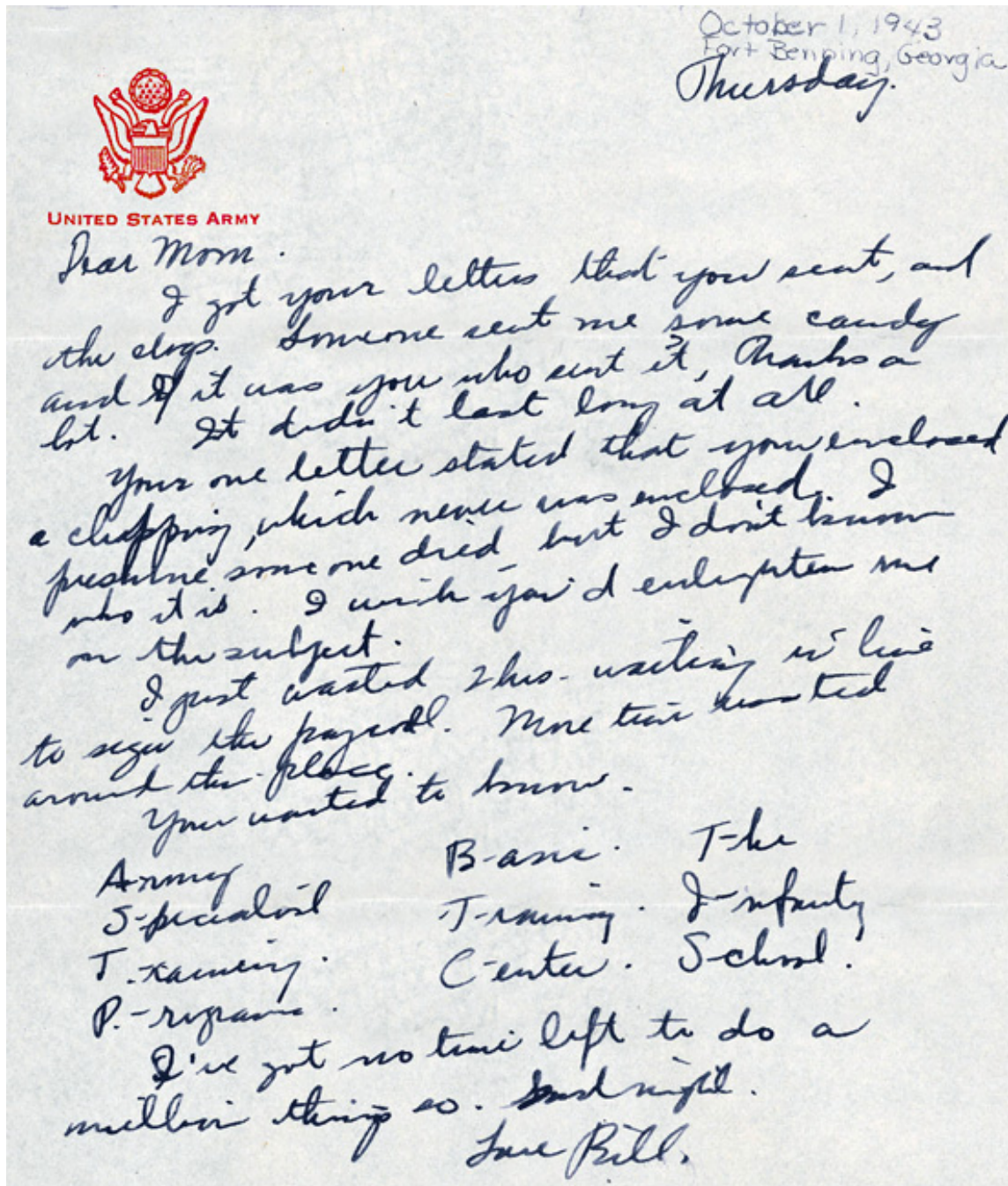


(Page 2 unavailable.)

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



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.

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 pushes 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 in that march and the colonel was very pleased with our conduct etc. We had real strafing attacks with out the bullets, a gas attack and biplane under combat conditions, a few extra attacks from the air. The attacks by fighter planes are really beautiful to watch and I'll 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.

(Page 2 unavailable.)

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



February 21, 1944, Page 1

February 21, 1944

A\*S\*T\*P  
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 2½ hrs. and every minute worth it. The theater was filled all show and seats were a \$1.10 apiece. The photography was technical at its best. There were a lot of special effects used in 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. ~~When I don't know~~

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN

February 21, 1944, 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 damn any more.

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

Love  
Bill.

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



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 beyond 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 too worried and get me in trouble.

Besides the situation isn't so bad. Our ~~replacement~~ in the army after here will depend largely on the needs of the army at the time. It was rumored that some of the men who were flunked out of ASTP were placed in Air Corps radio school. So my future isn't that 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 hair is ~~you~~ can be used instead of bad.

Things are going all right here, but there is a prize rumor going around now. The P.T. instructors are supposed to change every 4 weeks. The 4th week 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

(Page 2 unavailable.)

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



March 30, 1944

E. Lammert

Thursday  
Mar 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 will 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 76<sup>th</sup> Inf. and that they're almost 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 "Bloodie". They're so much like him.

"Joy Night" really sounded swell. Congratulations on selling all seats. Your reforms in the con all sounded

(Page 2 unavailable.)

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



September 25, 1944



UNITED STATES ARMY

Saturday.

Dear Mom,

Will there's time for a short note.

The latest is that we go on maneuvers for 2 Oct 'till the 28th. It'll be damn 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 ~~being~~ 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

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



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 letter would come through.

The Life of Nov. 27 had the

(Page 2 unavailable.)

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



January 12, 1945

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.

**PASSED BY**  
U 45318 S  
**ARMY EXAMINER**  
*Thos. H. H. H. H. H.*  
**(CENSOR'S STAMP)**

**TO:** MRS. ROY M. GREEN  
1900 SO 40  
LINCOLN 2 NEBRASKA

**FROM**  
CPL. WM. E. GREEN 31485009  
GN. CO. 304 INF APO 76  
40 PM NEW YORK, N.Y.

**SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2** (Sender's complete address above)

Somewhere in France  
Jan 12, 1945

Dear Mom,

It'll 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 taking 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.

**HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?**

**REPLY BY**  
**V---MAIL**

**HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?**

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1941 16-28143-5

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



January 21, 1945, Page 1



Jan 21, 1945  
Somewhere in France.

Dear Mom

I'm allowed to say we have visited such places as Sekarre, Auffay, Baunay, so dear what conclusions you can.

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

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

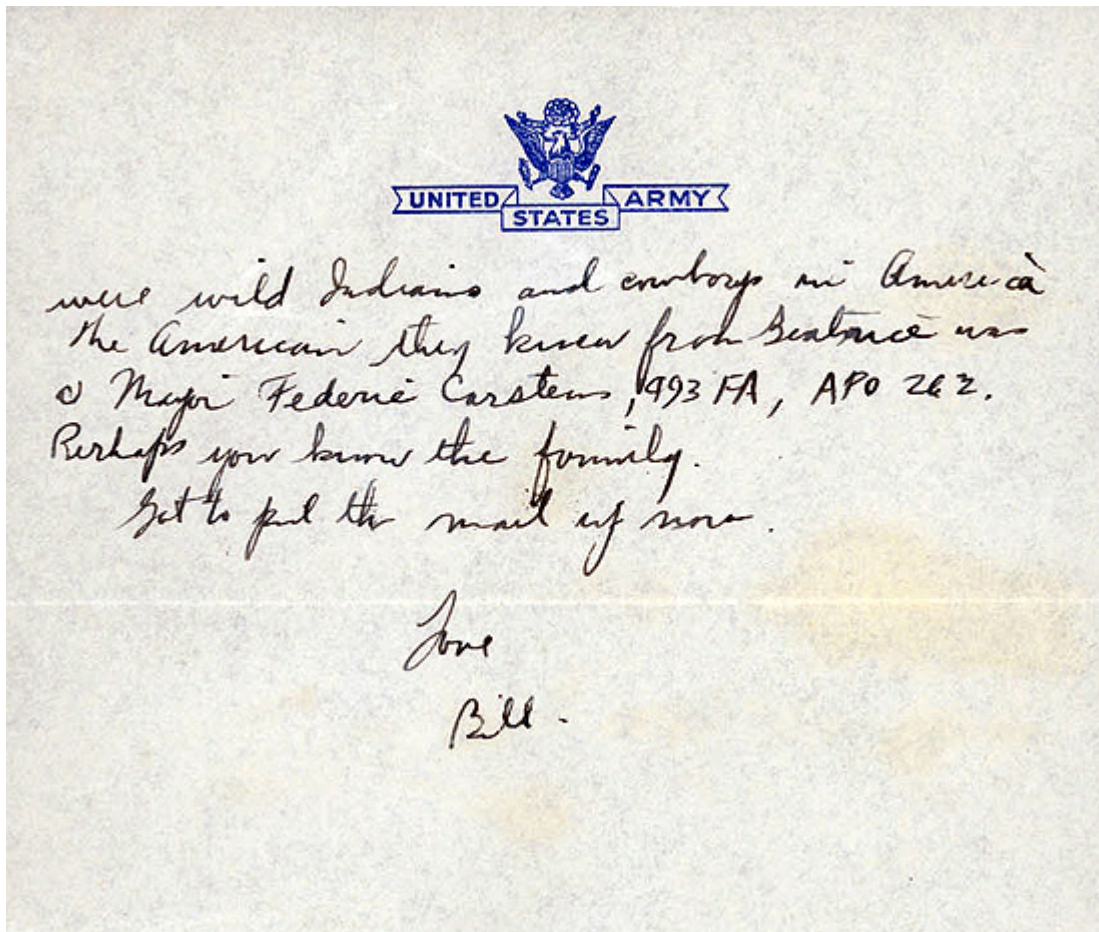
We're gradually learning to live in the cold although it was pretty bad at first.

The girls I once wrote of who 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 ~~us~~ buddy of mine. It was quite nice what she wrote. She said that he was a "sympathetic" man who was not rigid like the Germans and cowboys she knew some Americans to be. It made her realize that the actions of some Americans made a person actually believe that there

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN



January 21, 1945, Page 2



Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN

February 13, 1945

Luxembourg  
13 February 1945

Dear Mom,

The way your letters sound, it looks like you're 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 in during enemy action or anything so don't start worrying about that!

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 Protestant Chaplain with all reverence and faith due a Christian soul who has given his life that others might live.

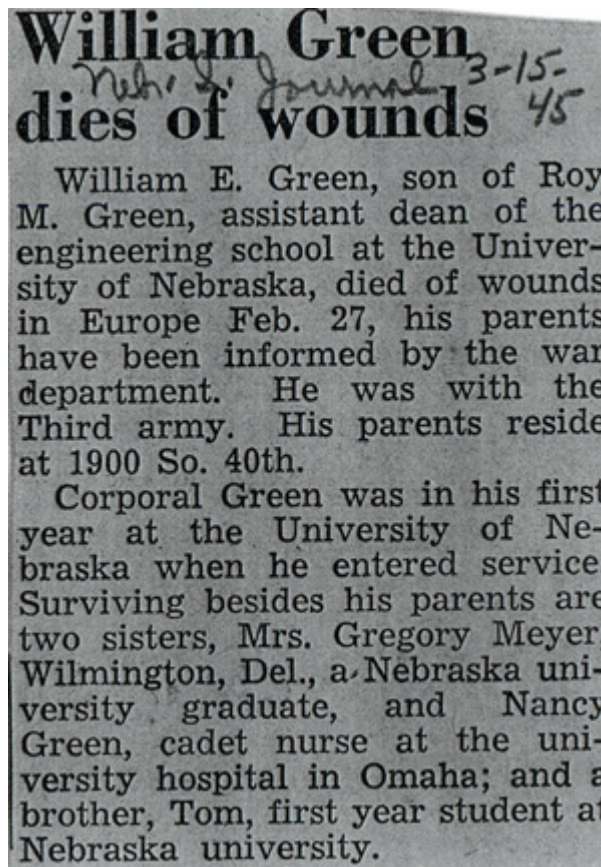
Words, written or spoken, are poor messengers of comfort for a loss such as yours, but in behalf of William's officers and the men who trained and fought with him, we send our deepest sympathy and want you to know that his loss is felt keenly here, too. May the Saviour Jesus Christ draw nigh unto you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

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society. RG2025-WILLIAMGREEN

March 15, 1945: Article in the Lincoln Journal newspaper





## 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.

*(Page 2 unavailable.)*

## 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 strafing (*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.

*(Page 2 unavailable.)*



## Transcript February 21, 1944, Pages 1 &amp; 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 4<sup>th</sup> week 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 . . .

(Page 2 unavailable.)

**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 76<sup>th</sup> 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 . . .

*(Page 2 unavailable.)*



## 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 . . .

*(Page 2 unavailable.)*



## Transcript January 12, 1945 V-Mail

Passed by 45318 Army Examiner  (Censor's Stamp)	To: MRS. ROY M. GREEN 1900 SO 40 LINCOLN 2 NEBRASKA	From: CPL. WM. E. GREEN 31485009 CN. CO. 304 INF APO 76 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.

*(Page 2 unavailable.)*

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

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

11 March 1945

Mrs. Roy M. Green  
1900 South 40<sup>th</sup> 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  
304<sup>th</sup> 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. 40<sup>th</sup>.

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.