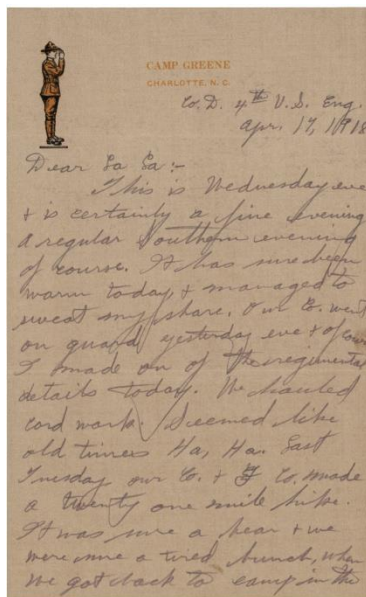


**Guide to the
Jes Jerry Jessen World War I Letters**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

Created by Kate Boeree

June 2009

MS – 103: Jes Jerry Jessen World War I Letters

(1 box, .27 cubic foot)

Dates: 6 June 1917 – 22 June 1919

Processed by: Kate Boeree

July 2009

Biography:

Jes Jerry Jessen was born September 13th, 1894. In May 1917 at the age of 22, he enlisted in the army under Company D., 4th Engineers. According to his obituary, Jessen died in January of 1941 at the age of 48 and was survived by his wife, La Vada, and his son Jerry. He was living in Salt Lake City, Utah at the time, working for the Utah Concrete Pipe company and was an honorary member of the American Legion post No. 9.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains 109 letters written by Jes Jerry Jessen addressed to his family in Spokane, WA, including his mother and father, his brothers George and Ralph, his sister Helen (“La La”) and his aunt Molly between June 6th, 1917 and June 22nd, 1919. These letters follow him through his training in Vancouver, Washington; Charlotte, North Carolina; France; and Germany, where his correspondence ends.

Jessen’s letters while in America provide descriptions of life in basic training and of his fellow soldiers. He seems to keep high spirits throughout basic training and often writes of the antics of him and his tent mates and the mud in North Carolina. While in Charlotte, NC he is quarantined for a few weeks due to one or more of his tent mates getting the mumps and measles (20 February 1918, 25 February 1918, 27 February 1918, and 4 March 1918).

When stationed in Europe, Jessen speaks mostly of the beautiful landscapes, food, people and their customs, and his stories of exploring the local towns and seeing movies. When in France, he mentions seeing German air raids (31 May 1918). He was injured when hit by a piece of shrapnel in August of 1918, and even then, his spirits were up, writing of his experiences in the hospital and joking as if it were first class living (12 August 1918 – 30 August 1918).

Letters are arranged chronologically. Folder 1-20 contains two letters addressed to Jessen: one from Helen (24 August 1918) and one from Judith J. Knisel (undated). Folder 1-21 contains miscellaneous empty envelopes.

Box List:

1-1: Finding Aid & Biographical Information

- Social Security Card
- Utah Operator’s License

- Photograph
- Obituary
- Funeral Notice

1-2: June 1917

- 6 June 1917 "Dear Folks" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 6 June 1917 "Dear Sister Helen" Vancouver, WA (no envelope) (1 page)
- 7 June 1917 "Dear sister" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 10 June 1917 "Dear mother" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 12 June 1917 "Dear Helen + Folks" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 16 June 1917 "Dear Mother + Folks" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 18 June 1917 "Dear Brother" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 20 June 1917 "Dear Brother George" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 22 June 1917 "Dear Sister" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 25 June 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 26 June 1917 "Dear Helen" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 28 June 1917 "Dear Brother" Vancouver, WA (no envelope) (2 pages)

1-3: July 1917

- 5 July 1917 "Dear Sister Helen" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 9 July 1917 "Dear Folks" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 17 July 1917 "Dear Brother George" Vancouver, WA (4 pages)
- 19 July 1917 "Dear Helen" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 23 July 1917 (damaged) Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 26 July 1917 "Dear Sister Helen" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 27 July 1917 "Dear George + Ralph" Vancouver, WA (no envelope) (3 pages)

1-4: August 1917

- 1 August 1917 "Dear Sister" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 8 August 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 14 August 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 16 August 1917 "Dear Folks" Vancouver, WA (8 pages)
- 20 August 1917 "Dear Sis" Vancouver, WA (no envelope) (2 pages)
- 21 August 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 22 August 1917 "Dear Sister" Vancouver, WA (no envelope) (2 pages)
- 25 August 1917 "Dear George" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)
- 29 August 1917 "Dear Folks" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)

1-5: September 1917

- 1 September 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (2 pages)

- 7 September 1917 "Dear George" Vancouver, WA (6 pages)
- 13 September 1917 "Dear George" Vancouver, WA (4 pages)
- 21 September 1917 "Dear Folks" Vancouver, WA (4 pages)
- 19 September 1917 "Dear Folks" Vancouver, WA(6 pages)

1-6: October 1917

- 1 October 1917 "Dear Brother" Vancouver, WA (4 pages)
- 4 October 1917 "Dear Mother + Father" Vancouver, WA (4 pages)
- 13 October 1917 "Dear Mother" Portland, OR (4 pages)
- 19 October 1917 "Dear George" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 22 October 1917 "Dear George" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 28 October 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (5 pages)

1-7: November 1917

- 4 November 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 8 November 1917 "Dear George" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
- 14 November 1917 "Dear Father" Vancouver, WA (5 pages)
- 16 November 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (1 page)
- 21 November 1917 "Dear Ralph" Vancouver, WA (1 page) missing end of letter
- 30 November 1917 "Dear Mother" Vancouver, WA (4 pages)

1-8: December 1917

- 6 December 1917 "Dear Ralph" Vancouver, WA (3 pages)
 - 17 December 1917 "Dear George" Portland, OR (1 page)
 - 24 December 1917 "Dear Mother" Pocatello, ID (1 pages)
- Enclosed: Short story "When Brown Hit the High Spots" (7 pages)

1-9: January 1918

- 4 January 1918 "Dear Aunt Molly" Charlotte, NC (4 pages)
- 20 January 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (5 pages)
- 21 January 1918 "Dear La La" Charlotte, NC (no envelope) (6 pages)
- 23 January 1918 "Dear George" Charlotte, NC (4 pages)
- 29 January 1918 "Dear Ralph" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 30 January 1918 "Dear George" Charlotte, NC (4 pages)

1-10: February 1918

- 4 February 1918 "Dear Folks" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)
- 5 February 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 12 February 1918 "Dear George" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)
- 17 February 1918 "Dear Father" Charlotte, NC (1 page)

- 14 February 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 20 February 1918 "Dear Ralph" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 25 February 1918 "Dear Father" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)
- 28 February 1918 "Dear Folks" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)

1-11: March 1918

- 4 March 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 7 March 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 13 March 1918 "Dear Folks" Charlotte, NC (1 page)
- 15 March 1918 "Dear Ralph" Charlotte, NC (1 page)
- 25 March 1918 "Dear Folks" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 28 March 1918 "Dear George" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)

1-12: April & May 1918

- 2 April 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 3 April 1918 "Dear Folks" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 6 April 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (no envelope) (1 page)
- 9 April 1918 "Dear Dad" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)
- 12 April 1918 "Dear George" Charlotte, NC (2 pages)
- 12 April 1918 "Dear La La" Charlotte, NC (3 pages)
- 15 April 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (no envelope) (4 pages)
- 17 April 1918 "Dear La La" Charlotte, NC (no envelope) (4 pages)
- 22 April 1918 "Dear Mother" Charlotte, NC (1 page)
- 25 April 1918 "Dear George + Folks" Camp Merrit, NJ (4 pages)
- 31 May 1918 "Dear George" France (2 pages)

1-13: June & July 1918

- 5 June 1918 "Dear La La" France (no envelope) (5 pages)
- 20 June 1918 "Dear La La" France (3 pages)
- 30 June 1918 "Dear Dad" France (no envelope) (2 pages)
- 4 July 1918 "Dear Mother" France (4 pages)
- 26 July 1918 "Dear Dad" France (no envelope) (1 page)
- 31 July 1918 "Dear La La" France (no envelope) (3 pages)

1-14: August 1918

- 12 August 1918 "Dear La La" France (no envelope) (1 page)
- 13 August 1918 "Dear Aunt Molly" France (1 page)
- 18 August 1918 "Dear George" France (2 pages)
- 21 August 1918 "Dear Mother" France (3 pages)
- 30 August 1918 "Dear La La" France (no envelope) (4 pages)

1-15: September 1918

- 4 September 1918 "Dear George" France (no envelope) (5 pages)
- 12 September 1918 "Dear La La" France (no envelope) (6 pages)

1-16: October & November 1918

- 14 October 1918 "Dear Mother" France (3 pages)
- 30 October 1918 "Dear Dad" France (no envelope) (1 page)
- 14 November 1918 "Dear Helen" France (3 pages)

1-17: January 1919

- 12 January 1919 "Dear Helen" Gamlen, Germany (3 pages)
- 13 January 1919 "Dear Aunt Molly" Gamlen, Germany (4 pages)
- 13 January 1919 "Dear Dad" Gamlen, Germany (2 pages) (no envelope) missing end of letter
- 26 January 1919 "Dear George" Gamlen, Germany (3 pages)

1-18: February & March 1919

- 10 February 1919 "Dear Helen" Gamlen, Germany (no envelope) (1 page)
- 4 March 1919 "Dear Helen" Gamlen, Germany (3 pages)
- Undated "Dear Folks" Gamlen, Germany (1 pages)
- 22 March 1919 "Well, Hello Everybody" Gamlen, Germany (6 pages)

1-19: April – June 1919

- 19 April 1919 "Dear George" Mayschoss, Germany (no envelope) (2 pages)
- 25 April 1919 "Dear Aunt Molly" Mayschoss, Germany (1 page)
- 10 May 1919 "Dear Folks" Mayschoss, Germany (8 pages)
- 3 June 1919 "Dear Helen" Treis, Germany (3 pages)
- 10 June 1919 "Dear Helen" Coblenz, Germany (5 pages)
- 22 June 1919 "Dear Aunt Molly" Coblenz, Germany (6 pages)

1-20: Letters addressed to J. Jerry Jessen

- 24 August 1918, "Dear Jerry boy" from Helen Jessen Spokane, WA (5 pages)
- Undated, "Dear Cousin Jes" from Judith J. Knisel (no envelope) (1 page)

1-21: Miscellaneous Envelopes (24)