

Way We Were
Written: 8 June 2013
For: 19 June 2013
Title: Worth Fighting For
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Worth Fighting For

On September 14, 2012 my twin touched down in Hawaii after a six month tour in Afghanistan. I was beyond relieved to have him home, and in paradise no less! The six months of his deployment were unashamedly less difficult to endure than I anticipated, and I point to one main reason: care packages. For probably the first time I didn't know where my twin was, what he was doing, or how he was, and I knew I couldn't just pick up the phone and call him. From the home front to the front line, I found a great sense of relief in taking an active role during his deployment. By providing for his needs (sending shampoo, socks, etc) and wants (his favorite chips, and an endless supply of peanut butter), I felt as if I was able to do something for him while he did everything for his country. In an e-mail he wrote to me in April he stated, "Thanks for sending me everything you have sent. It's always a plus getting something in the mail in the middle of the morning when you're hard at work. They say 'mail call' over the radios, and everyone waits in anticipation for the guys to come by with something for you." Although this correspondence took place less than a year ago, the sentiment has remained the same throughout the years. From the Revolutionary War to today, soldiers are consistently thankful for their connections to home.

In a letter written to Sam Raddon, of the Park Record, printed February 4, 1943 William G. Robinson expressed his gratitude for what he was sent while overseas. "For a year now I have been receiving The Record regularly, and it is the one medium, other than letters from home that brings me all the news about the people I know – the people back home. This is more than 'one of the little things that builds morale' – its one of the big things; one of the things that let us know the people back home still think of us. If we in the service, know that you, at home, are still thinking of 'that boy' that went in the service, then that's worth fighting for."¹

Tomorrow, Thursday June 20th, you will have a unique opportunity to influence the lives of locals currently deployed. The Park City Museum is hosting a Community Giving Day. Museum entry will be free with the donation of an item for a care package. We hope that you will stop by and show your support for the 19th Special Forces of Camp Williams. Please see our website, parkcityhistory.org, for more information on who will receive the packages and what you could donate. If you can't make it tomorrow, come by to see our current traveling exhibit *Mail Call* for more about the history of mail in the military from the Revolutionary War through today.

¹ William G. Robinson, "With Our Boys in the Armed Forces," *The Park Record*, 4 February 1943



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Credit: Courtesy of the Park City Historical Society and Museum

Caption: As the boys anticipate "Mail Call," so those of us at home eagerly await word from our loved ones overseas.