

July 12, 1917.

My Dearest Girl:-

I expect by the time this letter reaches you I will be on my way to our new training camp. I don't know where we are going, but we are preparing to leave Monday.

Don't stop writing as my mail will follow me and I will mail you my new address as soon as I receive it. I feel happy, because I am a step nearer to coming home and to you my dear. Grace I have something I must get off my mind. I have been thinking it over for two days. So here goes. In the first place I say to myself, Am I doing right in writing to you the way I

do. Here I am a Marine, I may  
never come home again or it may  
be some years before I can  
come home, (I mean for good). Am  
I to beg on writing to you and  
you to me in the way we have.  
Gee, we have put our trust in  
each other, but there are others  
beside my self. My dear, I  
love you, sometimes I think  
I cannot get along without  
you. Now how do you feel  
toward me? Is it right for us  
to continue to allow our friend  
ship (well it is more than that)  
to grow? You know I wrote  
that I never want to go  
through what I did with  
Eva. I also told you once that  
the next girl I started to keep

company with was the girl I  
was to have some day. Do you  
~~really~~ understand what I am  
getting at. I am not going to  
propose in a letter, I will  
wait until I see you if I  
know that is the right thing.  
But supposing our love should  
grow, and you should think  
of marriage and I should, .  
would you be willing to wait  
say six years or so. I know  
we are both young and I  
have lots of time, but there  
may be some one else for you  
should you not care to  
wait. Now my dear Peggie I  
hope I have put this straight.  
It is from my heart and I  
want you to write me how

you feel from your heart.  
You may think I am hasty  
about this, but it is not  
in the last few months that  
I have cared for you, but  
for more than a year I have  
cared for you. It is beyond  
my power of expression to tell  
you what you have done  
for me these last two and  
one half months.

How far to answer you  
two letters. - Last Sunday  
many of the officers had  
their girls in camp. They  
seemed to be very proud of  
their officer boys. I thought,  
I wonder if you would be  
as proud of me could some  
one else see you and I walking

down the street. I am only  
a private and they were  
officers. Would you? I  
wrote this in answer to  
your letter when you saw  
the soldiers with their girls.  
I will soon be home and  
then wait.

That letter should be  
dated July instead of June.

I meant the church  
board. I consider my  
self a church member yet.  
Don't you?

I will give you all the  
chances you want Grace,  
to make me happy.

I will explain the bollo  
attack when I get home. It  
is a little complicated to  
write in a letter. See?

Well my dear, I don't know how this letter makes you feel, but every thing is from my heart.

Don't be too lonesome as I feel sure of coming home on a furlough soon. Good night and my heart full of love <sup>for</sup> to you my dear Azziz.

Your lonesome ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~marina~~ <sup>marina</sup>  
Dare.

S. W. A. H.