


 ARMY AND NAVY
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

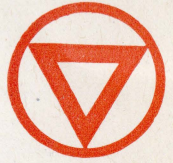

"WITH THE COLORS"

September 10, 1917

My own dear Grace:—

No letter today but will try to write a few lines anyway. At last the good old sun has come out to shine. It is still pretty cold, but when the sun came out it warms this old earth somehow.

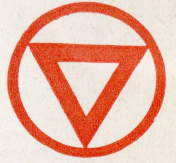
I feel very good today. Our ~~most~~ company is a machine gun company and every body must learn the gun from A to Z. There are eight men to each machine gun. I started to learn the gun after I came back from my furlough. Today I was blindfolded and took it down and put it together in 7 min and 29 seconds. The best so far of our gun squad. Better than the captain. I feel good over it. Ten min. is considered good.

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Great stuff this old war game.
The more I see of the boys
around me the more I want to get
home and the more I stay by my-
self. To hear how they talk after
being on liberty over Sunday makes
me sick. There were five who came
in drunk last night and were
not over it this morning. One
young fellow was caught and
it may mean the brig for him.
They seem proud of the fact that
they had been drunk. I want
to come back to decent people
again who have respect for
other people as well as them-
selves. Oh how I thank God I
am saved from all this and
that I have no desire to live
in the world. Stay close to God
brace dear, and do all you can

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for him. It makes me very sad to think of some of our boys at home going down the same path these boys are going and some of the girls are no better. It makes me glad to know my girl is living a christian life and wants me to do the same. It means more than words can tell to know this. It will mean still more over in France where the temptations will be harder, but God is there too, and you will be with me to lead me the right path. Won't you my dear?

This isn't much of a letter I know, and nothing new has happened in camp that would be of interest to you. I don't know why I have written as I have, but it is the way I feel



WAR WORK COUNCIL

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tonight.

A heart full of love and
mistakes for you my darling.

Your lonesome Marine,
Dave.

P.S. Best regards to your folks.

S. W. 4/12's.