



Somewhere in France,
On Active Service

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

February 13, 1918.

My own darling girl:-

Raining
tonight and I feel pretty tired
after hiking all day, but dearest,
not too tired to answer your precious
letters. I am still working in the
office, but as yet I have not taken
it seriously. I know I can do it
if I want to and as you want
me to Grace I will. I like it very
much for many reasons and
then there are many reasons not
to like it.

How lately your mail has
been coming first rate and oh how
it cheers me darling.

I am so glad you told me
Grace. Just what I want you to do.
I have thought of that time many
times too Grace, but I pray that
it won't be long before we many



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again have dinner in the same place. Joe must like Frances pretty well. He speaks quite a little of her in his letters. Oh if you only could fly to me darling, how glad it would make both of us, but you know, absence makes the heart grow fonder. Oh Grace dear you mean so much to me, but it looks so small on paper. I know you care for me and that you love me darling. Yes Grace, I am coming back to you and then we can have our joys all by ourselves. If I only could have my way I would come now just to make you happy.

How I wished I could have been with you at your party Grace. Grace I always have you in my thought you may be sure of that. But Grace dear, when you go out



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any place, have a good time, forget me for the time being. You understand what I mean. I feel so many times that I am depriving you of things I should not. Dearest I will leave it to you, you know what I want. Yes I am so glad when I can help you share your feelings by your telling me just how you feel. Oh darling you mean so much to me.

Now for your letter of Jan. 1.

Yes better late than never. I received your New Year's greetings on February 12 and thank you so much.

How happy you make me feel when I know you are trying to be happy and that you had a happy birthday. I was thinking of you that day and wishing I could be very near to you. Really I didn't know what to give you, but then



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I knew you loved roses, so I wrote to Joe to get you as many "American Beauties" as you were old. I am glad you liked them. It is nothing, Gracie, it is so little as compared to what you have done and are doing for me. I understand dear and will wait for the rest until I come home.

I hope the meetings will do much good amongst the people. From what I hear Pastor Gordon is doing good work. I am so glad.

Where has all the time gone to? Five years ago since he was married. Time sure does fly.

They didn't go ^{home} until 2:30 A.M. Gracie! I never thought that of you. Maybe it is a good thing I wasn't home or the "gossips" would get me sure. But when



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I get home I don't care what they say. See if I will.

Now for yours of the 8 Jan.

Still having Mizzal meetings? Lillie said something in her letter about "old maid parties". I see now what she meant.

You folks sure must have had lots of snow. To bad I wasn't there to enjoy it or did you enjoy it? Have you been to any sleighride parties yet?

Yes it was a seven page letter from Lillie. You sure must hand it to her for writing to so many. She said she received your permission to write to me and as you gave it I am going to answer when I get time.

I received your handkerchiefs yesterday dearest and thank

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you from the bottom of my heart for them. You thought of one of the most useful things a soldier could get. How thoughtful you are my dear. I know you are thinking of me my darling, but these handkerchiefs will bring you so much closer to me. Oh how I am waiting for the time when we can be together dear. Then we can celebrate every thing and more besides. I too had many things to tell you dearest.

Do I remember that night? How could I forget it darling? Even now at times I think to myself, is it really true and that Grace is mine and I come back to myself and say, yes. Oh how glad I am for that night Grace. My heart was so full of joy and love to say much that night;



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but the time will come. I do wonder how long it will be Grace. Time flies and it won't be long. Isn't it great to have God as a helper dearest. He means so much to me and I tell him all my secrets and I know he listens. He knows of our love for each other and he is keeping me clean, pure and true just for you darling and I know I am coming home to you.

Yes it is possible Grace and I am coming back stronger and better. It is bound to be so and God is doing it all.

Your letters mean just as much to me Grace and more even if you have no letter to answer. It proves very near as much as words your trust in me and dear oh if I only could write how I feel



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but I love you so Grace.

I am well and spy as always
and why shouldn't I be?

Best regards to your folks.

To you my darling sweetheart
I give all my love with mistakes from
your own true Marine,

5 K's.

Dave.

Jerry Bender
Lieut.

Private David L. Johnson

73 Company - 6 Regiment,
U. S. Marine Corps,
A. E. F.

... .. or,
Company-6th/ Regiment
U.S. Marine Corps
A. E. F.

Marine



1918

Miss. Grace Shogren,
1000 N. Lockwood Avenue,
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U. S. A.

*Henry B. Bader
Lieutenant.*

