


 ARMY AND NAVY
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

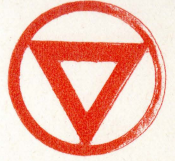
August 27,

1917

My own Sweetheart:-

What do you mean by dating your letter "Chicago"? Don't you know you are in Elyria? You must have your thoughts in Chi. They sure do keep me on the hop all the time. I am not sure when I will be called for duty. Such is the military life. I am getting tired in a way of this life and wish this war was over. It soon will and then I can come home.

Just because I want you to know I am well. I feel that you have a right to know. You write to me every day and why shouldn't I. I know you would understand my dear, but I how how I feel when I don't hear from you. I just want to prove more strongly my love for you Grace.


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Grace, I have thought over and over Gun's actions and I have come to the conclusion, he doesn't know any better. If he does, he doesn't believe he is hurting the girls. He feels, well I am young and will have a good time yet. I think one of the girls ought to write a serious letter to him and tell him what he is doing. Both know what he has been doing. I have told Gun, to quit his making love to the girls. It is proper to write but he ought to be careful what he writes. I don't feel sorry for Gun, but I do for the girls, especially Arline. No, it is not for a Christian to do as he has done, but he don't realize. See?

I am glad to know you ~~have~~ find it a comfort to know you trust me and you won't be sorry.


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So far Bert has kept away from smoking and I feel certain I can help him to go through all the way.

Our days are hot, but our nights are cold. We need two blankets to keep warm. It's fine to sleep, but oh so hard to get up.

We'll have a good time, but try to rest as much as possible. I know it is hard when one is on a vacation. I will write my last letter to Elyria Saturday and get it off on the early train. By Friday I will send a "special" to Chicago to reach you sometime Sunday.

I hope so myself as yet I have not heard from Joe how they turned out. It is very slow in writing. Shake him up a little when you get home Grace.


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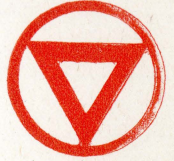
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The captain said today we will leave in three weeks for Flanders, the northern part of France. How true it is I don't know. I will see that you get some kind of a note when I am leaving. So don't worry.

All my S. N. A. K. are meant as real ones and I take yours to be the same. See?

I am going to use the Y. M. C. A. stationery regularly. I get it for nothing so I will use it and you will get a variety as you have already seen.

I don't think I am doing so many things for you. I would do anything for you Grace, die if called to do so. Why not Grace, I love you and when I get to France I won't be able to do anything for a long time. Now understand?


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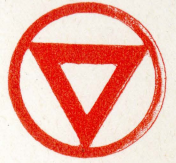
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May as well look it in the face, my dear. It will seem as long to me as it will to you and it will be equally as hard. We must suffer together and bear it quietly. We can deal, with God as our helper.

Yes let it go at that Grace. It is none of their business.

No, I promise you Grace that my smile will not come off. As long as I serve God it is going to stay and that will mean forever. There are enough sour looking people in this world as it is. Don't you lose yours either. When I come home after the war and you meet me at the station I want to see that smile and happy face of yours. Remember now.

I will take it all back. If I


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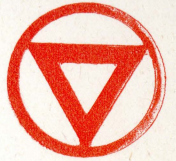
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write a book for you to read I won't feel sorry for you. How's that?

Never worry I can read your letters very easily. So you had to go by your self to write to me. Well I find it the best if one can get by ones self.

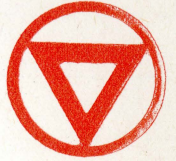
Now for a little new news. I have a little that you may not like. Saw another boy and I went out taking pictures yesterday as you know. (I will send you copies of them when I get them developed.) We had a fine time and the country we passed through was grand. All together we walked about ten miles. Now where the good stuff comes in. Every Friday if we want liberty we must send in our names to the top sergeant, well we did thinking it would be sufficient to


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allow us to go off the reservation.
 But we found out differently.
 Liberty over Sunday means we
 must board a train and not go
 out hiking. We got to our place
 and back to camp when we were
 stopped by a guard who took our
 names and questioned us as to
 where we had been. This morning
 we were at work we got orders to
 report to the top sergeant and with
 him we proceeded to the Commanding
 Officer. He asked us a few
 questions and postponed our
 case until later. I don't know
 what we will get, but I don't
 think it will be anything serious
 as it is our first offense. Our
 top is a fine old scout and
 wanted us to lie and we would
 get out easily. The guard who


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caught us can't prove we were out
 of the reservation and all we have
 to do is to say we were not out
 side. But I am going to tell the
 truth and will take my medicine.
 I think God wanted this to
 happen to see if we were true
 christians and he won't find me
 failing. Pray for me Grace to be
 able to withstand such temptations
 should they happen again. I
 will let you know later how
 I come out. I am not worried
 about the outcome. He will
 probably give us a good pawling
 out and let us go. I have
 lots more to write but have
 already written a lot. Don't
 you think so?

Return my regards to your
 mother and Billy and thank

WAR WORK COUNCIL



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them for theirs.

Good night my waiting and
lonesome darling girl with my love
and mistakes all for your own
dear self.

Equally your waiting and
lonesome Marine boy, and oh how
I love you Grace. Dave.

S. W. 2 K's.