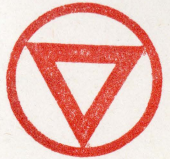



 ARMY AND NAVY  
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

September 17, 1917

My own dear Grace:-

How to answer your letter of the 14, you sure can read between lines. I did not know you could do it. I guess you have spoiled me my dear, but as we are fifty-fifty on it, let it go at that. What say?

I am rid of my cold now. A cold and a Marine don't hang together. It was very slight, but enough to give me a little trouble. Just leave it to me.

It is a good thing you were teasing when you wrote that about you and the Crab. It just goes to show how interesting the picture was. I thought of you most of the time. If you were here I would squeeze you extra hard


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for teasing like that. I will love you more though for doing it. So tease all you want to as I need it.

My "something" is just hanging on a string, with the scissors ready to cut. It would be more than a miracle, I am dear, if I could come home for Christmas. It sure would be the best Christmas I ever had. I know it would. Not only to be home, but to be with my sweetheart would just double it. I suppose though I will spend my Christmas in Paris. It will be a sad and funny Christmas for me I know, not to be able to go to services in the morning. Don't cry my dear. That will only make it worse

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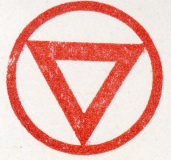
"WITH THE COLORS"

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for you.

You guessed it right again. After the lights go out is when I feel very lonesome. As a rule I go to bed so I can be asleep when the lights go out. That is when I have my hardest struggle. Many times I have been very near to crying and I know and feel that some night I will burst. Yes, my own Grace if you only could be near me, when I am lonesome. But if you were here I wouldn't be lonesome, because then I would be home. I am going to be brave and do my best to be a man, so you can say I have been one when I come home to you.

I hope it will reach me. I will eat every pie as though


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it was a kiss from you.

How can I appreciate you  
 Grace for staying home from  
 choir to make me candy? I  
 hope to show you some day.  
 Will you wait that long? You  
 can imagine I am showing you  
 and when I come home I can  
 do it personally.

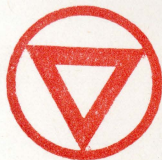
Oh you have to hand it  
 to Austin. They are there. Always  
 have been and always will be.  
 I hope we all can come back  
 home after the war. Won't we  
 have a good time then? I can  
 hardly wait until they call  
 my name and tell me I can go  
 home.

We were out on another hike  
 today. Had a fine time. We raided  
 an apple orchard and oh me oh my.



WAR WORK COUNCIL

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YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION



"WITH THE COLORS"

1917

we did eat apples the rest of the day.

The pictures have come today. I am sending them all home. There is one for you. I hope you will like it. There also is a pennant for you. I had it made. You will have something to remember me by anyway.

I will close for today this time, so I can mail it before the P.O. closes.

Best regards to your folks. All my own love for you and mistakes my sweetheart.

Your own Marine boy,  
Dave.

S. H. 4 K's.