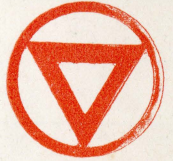



 ARMY AND NAVY  
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

August 28,

1917

Dearest Grace:-

I rise all morning so am writing you now and will answer you letter of the 26 which I just received. We were told to stay in our houses today in case we should be called to go up before the Commanding Officer. I wish it were all over.

You say you were so tired and only from being out to the Park. Why, Grace, I am surprised at you. I hiked ten miles Sunday and could have hiked more.

Why didn't you ask me to go along and see your park? It may have kept me out of this muddle I am in. Yes, I wish I could have been with you Grace dear, but you know I couldn't. End the war and I will

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come home to you for good. Don't you think it pays to take such a trip as you have done? It may cost something, but then look what you see. When I get back I want to go out west, as I have seen the east and south east. Don't you think I am some traveler? Pretty soon I will go to France and if I am discharged in France I will go to Sweden to see my grandmother.

So you wash dishes too. Good for you. I like to see you work once in a while. Slap my face, will you? I wish you could.

I suppose if that boy goes over soon, we will go with that bunch. Nobody knows


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though for certain what is to happen.

Be careful of those soldiers. Don't you notice how they look at you when they pass you? I know when our company passes a girl on the street it is eyes right or eyes left. You can't blame some of the boys. I look at a girl and my thoughts go back home to my girl. I am glad I left a waiting girl back home. Last night after the lights had gone out I couldn't go to sleep for a while and I thought of you and I could see your face just as clear as though you had been standing in front of me. I thought of a few things and pretty soon I was fast asleep. This morning I awoke and


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took an ice cold shower. I felt good after it, believe me.

Last Sunday night I attended our open air service and it ~~is~~ was fine. It reminded me of a camp meeting. A captain was the speaker. He is a christian and he told us how he was converted, how once he had been a murderer of souls while now he was trying to save souls. His text was the words of Pilat, "What will I do with him." He asked us the same question, "What are we doing with Jesus. It was fine Grace. I was blessed as I haven't been for a long time. When he first got up on the platform he shouted, "Now brothers let us sing Brighten the corner where you


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are. Then when he was through he said, "Let us all pray and he knelt down on the platform and with his eyes up to heaven prayed. Oh how do you wonder my dear why the Marines are so successful in their battles? Such leaders are worth following. This captain drilled us down in Paris Island and I wondered why he always had a smile and never was cross and he would always complement us for our good work. I can see more and more that it pays to be a Christian when a captain can get up and give his testimony in such a convincing way.

I had something else I wanted to tell you but just now it has slipped my mind.

WAR WORK COUNCIL



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I will try to think of it for my next letter.

Best regards to your mother and Billy and all my love and mistakes for you my darling,

Your lonesome and waiting Marine,

Dave.

S. W. 31's..