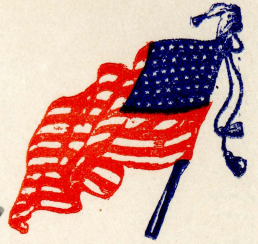


Young Men's Christian Association

U. S. MARINE CAMP
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

August 23, 1917

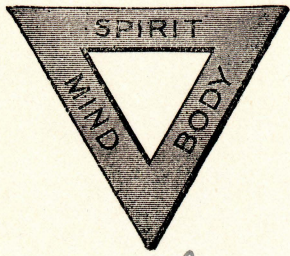


Dear Brother Joe:—

I will answer your letter at the same time and ~~it~~ enclose it in Walter's. No I can't say as I have ever tried to eat and write at the same time. It wouldn't appeal to me in the first place.

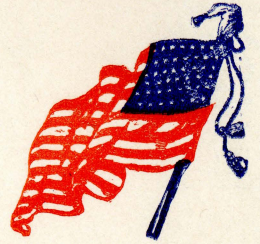
You better not forget me for all the girls you have. I never forgot you inspite of all the mail I have written in the last four months. I got a letter from Elsie (your girl) the other day. I wrote to her too. Do you care? I don't care if you do care, I am going to write any way. She sent me a dandy letter and you ought to see the letter I wrote to her. Did you give her my address? You a good old scout Joe. When I received the letter the handwriting on the envelope was unfamiliar, but when I looked at the name, I was surprised. She wrote me a good sensible letter. Joe send me one of her pictures so I can have it amongst my collection of pictures. See?


I am glad you had a good time in Batavia.



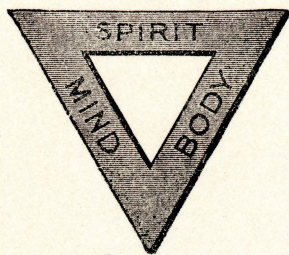
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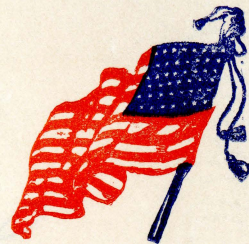
Yes the best is to get in good with the mother.
 What did mother say when you came home so
 early? I'll bet she said you can go back next
 Sunday. I am going to try and take a picture
 of the trenches and barbed wire entanglements they
 have here and you let me see yours and ^{we} will compare.
 Here is a rough out line of ours. The machine gun is
 on one end and is also scattered throughout the
 trench. You know that  a whole regiment
 have a line of trenches. They run zig zag and
 where the machine gun is stationed is a square
 trench. Did they have barbed wire entanglements
 too? In back of the wire ~~is~~ ^{is} more wire that is
 charged with electricity. Some class to the
 modern war fare stuff. I'll say you day
 was a success. Return my regards to
 Francis and tell her to write. Don't get
 jealous if I write to your girl, old top. You
 know me.

Say Joe, look through the July letter Grace
 wrote to me and at the bottom of one you will find
 the size of her finger. Get it and copy it just as it



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is. I am going to get her a ring. I believe it will be in the July bunch, anyway find it. Get my orders. Have you heard anything (I mean from other) about my week at home? Keep this to yourself, but Grace and I are engaged. It will not be a diamond, just a little inexpensive ring. We'll ~~not~~ write soon and be good.

Your brother,
Dave.

Send me a couple books of stamps, please,
D. L. Y.