

June 12, 1917.

My own dear girl:-

I received your very welcome letter today and having a little time will write you a letter. I won't promise it will be as long as yours though. You can't write to many books to me Grace. I was waiting for a letter from you, four days since I heard from you. I wait for your letters.

Our company is on the range now. We started yesterday. Some work what I say, but one consolation it is our last piece of work. After this we are through. We may stay here or we may be sent out some other place. If we stay I believe it means France for us later on. Well to get back to the range for a while. We have not

started to shoot yet. Just getting  
in practice. It is hard and  
your left arm and hand become  
very sore. It takes a man to  
be a Marine. We get up at 4:00  
in the morning and are through  
at 7 at night. Now what do you  
think of those hours. We rest  
between times but believe me they  
are some hours. When we start  
to shoot I will write you more  
about it.

Yes Grace, I believe it a  
pretty good motto. "Where there is  
a will there is a way." I, as a  
rule get what I go after. You  
ought to know that by this  
time.

So you lost your dog. So  
bad. Well I was a little bit  
afraid. You know some of the  
women in Chicago have pet dogs

and they forget their home and friends for a dog. I don't think you would do it and I am satisfied and believe you won't forget me. I wish I could come home and you will have to wait until I come. See?

Do I have to wait until I come home for you to tell me what you told your mother? What if I never come home anymore? Then I will never know. Well do as you please. Can't make me mad.

No my dear, never would and never will allow any one to read my letters. If I caught any one reading my letters, well I hate to say what would become of him. A person has to be fresh in the Army. I will forget the freshness when I get home though.

Just home from rifle practice  
and will finish your letter by  
lamp light so I can mail it  
tonight.

That ring by you receiving  
it will tie our friendship <sup>more</sup>. Now  
Grace, I do think well - perhaps  
pretty much of you and should  
I never come back you will  
have a little remembrance. Then  
when you look at it you will  
think of me. I may think now, I  
do - but I will tell you later.

Yes my dear, I will take  
it all back so don't cry. I  
didn't mean it as badly as it  
sounded.

Art. Gezelius is the only  
one who has written as yet.  
Much obliged for your trouble  
Grace.

Will now answer your  
letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> just received.

We receive mail most any  
time during the day.

Good for you girls. Keep  
it up. You have at least one  
Marine to back you. Now  
laugh. I can just see you.

So you feel that way my  
dear, so glad you think of me.  
I bet I think more of you than  
you do of me. You are the girl  
I left behind, but I am coming  
back again. Then I want you,  
see. Say yes.

Yes, I will believe you Grace.  
I didn't really expect you to  
be so regular in writing. Now  
don't misconstrue my meaning.  
All the others I have to write  
to first before I get an answer.  
But not so with you. But  
you know, one that is faith-  
ful is worth many more. Friend-  
ship that lasts when friends

are parted is the friend that  
I want. Didn't I always tell  
you you had it in you Grace.

I It looks more and more  
that we are destined to go to  
France. If it is God's will  
Grace I will go as fearlessly  
as the next. Isn't that the  
way you want me to go. I  
know it is. If I don't come  
back I know where I go. I  
am safe in his arms.

I will be writing a book  
myself so will close for this  
time. Best regards to your  
folks and lots of love to you,  
To my girl I left behind.

from  
Your Marine Boy.  
Dave (alvis) Dimple.

Dear Grace: -

So you wish to  
know what Azziz means.

Now pay attention because  
I won't repeat it here.

Hold your breath and  
don't faint. Are you  
listening and don't read  
ahead either, see! It

means oh —

"My beloved." Now  
don't you wish you  
had never used it.

Dare.