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July 28, 1917.

UNITED STATES MARINES

My own dear girl:-

I didn't write

last night, although I had time,  
but I went to a concert given to  
the Marines. It was the best  
concert I have ever heard. The  
Marine Band from Washington  
D.C. furnished the music. This  
band is the best band in the  
U.S. Now I don't say so because  
I am a Marine, but this band  
plays at all the big happening

at the White House, and they would only have the best. They played about 12 pieces. There was a quartet from Minn that sang. They were naval men and they were good. Congressman Shaw of Minnesota gave us a speech. He is blind but let me tell you his talk was good. His talk was on what our object in entering this war is. It is not for land or supremacy we are fighting, but for freedom, and to pay back our debt we owe France. They helped us obtain our freedom and now we are helping them, and my dear, what do a few lives amount to when the cause is righteous? None of us like to die, but when the cause is righteous we cannot stop to think of our lives. Gunnar and I were talking over things this afternoon ~~and~~ about going to fight and we are both of the same mind in that, if God wants us to come home, we will, but if he wants us to die, we are ready and his will be done. I know you will agree. ~~We~~ I am pretty busy during the day. I am doing a little payroll work.

just enough to let me get a slight idea of what it is. Other wise I study all day. It becomes tiresome and then we fellows will fool around a little. I like the work so far and I know I will like it. It's just to get on to it and that won't take so long.

Why did they change the Ep. L. meetings? No, I did not know of the change. Thanks very much for letting me know. I hope you helped celebrate at your aunts anniversary.

We are having Ideal Virginia summer. The evenings are dandy. We have the moon and it sure is fine. You are the only missing member to make my evening perfect. It is hard at times for me, but



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I must conquer.

I would have liked to see that parade. It must have been great to see them. Well you can see them for me. Just make believe I am there. I'll tell you what I will do, from now on until I leave I will write you a letter every day. I hope that will give you one every night you come home. I am glad that your writing to me partially cheered you. I wish you could write all your heartaches to me, but

I suppose that is asking to much.  
As long as I can have some I will be  
satisfied for the time being.

I am enclosing a little poem I  
found in the "Literary Digest." It is  
quite a contrast to what we read nowa-  
day in our papers and magazines.

I am going to town tonight and  
perhaps will get into a scrape. Some  
boy got into a scrape last night at  
the dance hall and they wanted Gunnar  
and I to go along tonight to help along.  
There will be a bunch of Marines so I  
don't believe there will be much trouble.  
Some of the private citizens think they  
can sit on a Marine, but we must teach  
them otherwise. I won't go in unless I  
see I am needed. I feel like I could scrape  
though. I don't think it will be wrong  
when it is a man running such a place.  
I wish the authorities would clean out  
the place and I don't think it long  
before they will.

Gunnar and I are going to take  
pictures to-morrow. I hope these will  
turn out good. I will send you a set  
should they turn out good. We are hoping  
the weather will be ~~be~~ the same as it is

has been today and we will have  
our hike to-morrow. Don't you  
want to come along? You don't  
know my dear, how much I  
wish I could have you with  
to-morrow. But no chance.

Be good anyway until I come  
home. Best regards to your  
folks. My heart full of love  
to you and mistakes my own  
dear Azzie.

Your true Marine boy,  
Dave.

S. W. 2 K's.