


 ARMY AND NAVY
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

September 28, 1917

Grace dearest:-

Just came off guard. I feel pretty tired, but not too tired to write to my little girl. I wrote you yesterday that I wouldn't have to go on guard, but I was fooled. After writing your letter and another one home, I fell asleep and at 4 o'clock the company clerk came in and told me to get ready for guard as one of the boys got sick. I had only one half hour, but I got ready somehow. I was on the main guard and guarded the Headquarters buildings. I was on guard from 6:30 to 8^{P.M.} - 12 to 2^{A.M.} - 6 to 8^{A.M.} - 12 to 2 P.M. I always enjoy my guard when it comes at night when everything is dark and quiet. Then I think back to home and to you and


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it seems you are walking beside
 me. So, I had it last night
 in my walking I had you all
 by me. To-night I was ~~the~~^{mistake}
 color guard and helped take down
 the dear old flag. Oh how I love
 the flag my dear. I am very
 lonesome tonight. Every night while
 the new guard mounts and the
 old is taken off the band plays
 and many times we have spectators.
 Tonight there were some officers
 with their sweethearts and I
 wanted you dear. Sometimes I
 will have you, but not yet.

Now to answer your letter of
 the 26. Some letter Grace, it has
 done me a world of good. I am over
 that lonesome streak, but I dare
 another look again tonight.
 That week will be a never

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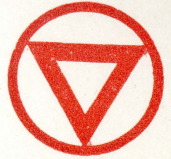
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forgotten memory for me.

Yes, dear I have received your letter thanking me for the picture and penant. You are very welcome.

So you think I am vain. Perhaps I am, I will leave it to your good judgement. I will look in the mirror as much as I choose. You may think I look in the mirror, but I don't. I look at your picture. If I can't have you where I can see you, I must have your picture. Now will you say I am vain?

My arm is well now, but I think we will have another one in a day or so. I hope your hand is well by this time. I am so glad it is not any worse. I am glad you can write to me. If


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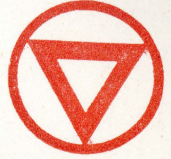
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you stopped it I believe I would die. So please dear, be careful how you use your hand. (the right one) As much as I want your candy I don't want you to hurt your self in making it. Let your hand be completely well first.

Of course I was teasing Grace. I would like to receive a bawling out and a slap, but I was only teasing so save it for some other time. You may get to know me some day. I hope so.

No, I wouldn't dearest. If I ask you to tell me just how you feel I surely wouldn't say, "get a crape." I am going to tell you just how I am and I want you to do the same. If it comforts you I surely will tell

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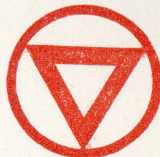
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you. Now don't you think I will feel the same? It is just another way of our trusting each other. It will help you and it will help me.

I can just imagine how you felt. I know I would feel the same. It is not jealousy, I don't think. You have a right to me all for yourself. I know when love is young it does not take much before a small doubt comes in. It will never happen again and you will never have the least bit to doubt. Let's forget it. I will and I know you will. What say my dear.

We get good meals at all times. At times the meat will be a little hard and tough, but as a rule our meals are first


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rate. That is our captain. Some
 man he is. We are living on
 what we call transfer meals.
 Our captain does not want
 any food left over when we
 go and we expect to soon, but
 even then our meals are good.

This Marine life is very funny.

I will close for this time
 as I want this to go "special."

Best regards to your folks.

All my love to you my
 own sweetheart from your own
 lonesome boy.

Dave.

S. W. C. K's.