



July 16, 1917.

UNITED STATES MARINES

My Dear Girl:-

Well tomorrow we will be a step nearer France. WE leave tomorrow morning for some place in Virginia. There we will drill for two months on trench digging and light machine guns. Then when we get to France we will have some more drilling. Say, won't I be some Marine. As soon as next pay day is over I will apply for a furlough just to get home

one more and they could send me any place.

I had a fine day yesterday. The day was perfect, not a cloud in the sky. I had an inspection in the morning and an examination and I passed both. Then I loafed all afternoon. In the evening I attended a christian meeting. It was fine to sing christian songs, to hear prayers and to listen to a christian talk. The local Y.M.C.A. held the meeting. There was about 15 christian boys. Most of us are leaving

together and we are going to keep on with the meetings. It made me feel like a new man. Grace. The topic was "Faith" and it was what my heart needed. Now all I need is a trip home to you and my folks.

I have some job this afternoon. As squad leader, I have to see that my squad gets their stuff packed and try to keep them together. It will be some job as we all have been prisoners for three months and now we will

be allowed liberty. In our new
home we get every Sat. afternoon
and Sunday off. Then every
afternoon after four o'clock.

I hope this letter finds
you happy and I will send
you my new address soon as
possible. Best regards to
your folks and loads of
love to you my dear,

Your Marine Boy,

Dave.

S. H. A. K.