

AMERICAN



On Active Service

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Somewhere in France.

November 25, 1917

My own dear sweetheart:-

I am going to ask you to excuse my writing. I sprained my wrist and it is still very sore. Such is life in the service. Still I have to laugh at it. I have three of your precious letters to answer. The first one is you wrote on the Oct 17. I wish I could tell you how far your letter had to travel before reaching me my dear. Some distance though I will say. I promised to send the telegram so I did. I was hoping it would not effect you my dear in that way, but it is all over now so what is the difference.



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I am glad you went over home and enjoyed yourself as you say, everything considered. Father wrote and told me you were over and that in the afternoon there was a house full of women. I was very busy that day. I sent a message home the same time I sent yours, but now I am glad it did not reach home until later. I would not have spoiled the afternoon for mother for anything.

Yes I had a dandy time in Washington. If I were only there today instead of here. Now I think back at that letter I almost



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feel ashamed of myself. I
was pretty sore at everybody
that Sat. night and of
course I had to put it in
that letter. I can see my
self now in the hate writing
that letter, but that is
now a thing of the past too.
How time does fly.

I can feel that you folks
are praying for me. I don't if
I could only put in words
what my heart says, to
know that I have a
sweetheart at home praying
for me and who believes and
is waiting for me to come
home. This is a great experience
if a man can keep straight.
I know I am.

Did I ask you to write

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every day my dear? I didn't mean to, so it wouldn't hurt the censor any as the mail from the states to us is not censored.

Yes Grace, once a week will do, I will leave it to you. You were so good to me while in the states, by writing every day. I miss your letters very much. You sure did spoil me.

Oh it helps Grace when you say you are going to do your share by being cheerful. I knew I wouldn't be disappointed when I asked that of you. You see I know "my little girl" pretty well by this time. Yes my darling girl you sure



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are going to share with me,
my return. I hope it will
be a triumphant one. I
have left everything in God's
hands for him to do as he
wills.

Now for your letter of
the 26. Be sure and remember
what you wanted to write
Grace, but what will be unsaid
until my return. I too
have lots I want to write,
but can't and won't until
my return. Grace I can
see us when I get back. I
will have so much to tell
you. I hope you will have
that swing on the front
porch when I come home.
That swing holds many
cherished memories for us.



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Justin does not seem to be suffering from the way, with so much spot cash running around. I am so glad the social was a success. What did Joe say when he got the beads? I can just about see Joe and his expression. I know I missed it, Grace, but I would rather be in my shoes than in Ray's, any day ~~and~~ even if I do miss a good time once in a while.

We celebrated that day of prayer on board ship. I was on guard and only heard a part of the service.

Ought to come over here Grace. No winter as yet. The people say here

in this region. I am glad to
be away from Chicago's windy
fall and winter for once, but
I hope by next winter to
be back in Chicago again.

You have to hand it
to Chicago, she is doing
her part in this war. I
am proud to hail from
old Chi. I sure would
have liked to have the
73rd Company in that parade.
We would take first prize
though so I guess we were
better off here. We don't
want to take all the first
prizes you know my dear.

I hope you have
received some of my mail
by this time. I have



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written four letters already.

Your letter of the 30 Oct.

Just two weeks and I was sailing the ocean blue. Now it is close to a month since we landed. Time sure does fly. No I wouldn't say spoiled my dear. I don't like that word. I don't think it fits in in this instance. Now do you Grace?

Be careful my dear and don't get sick again. It worries me and I imagine a lot of things. I hope you are back in your bed spirits and health again. Yes, lets hope it is over for good.

Yes Doc is the boss. It is the same here. What



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the doctor says goes. But I wouldn't say a spectacled old maid. You will always be, "my girl," dearest, specs or no specs. I mean it to. Come over and see if I don't.

Why didn't you have your dad come and get me for the song service. Just think of the ride we could have had together.

Oh yes, we celebrated Halloween in great shape, on board ship and we had an abandon ship drill that day. We all thought a submarine was after us.

No, I should say that is not much of a compliment for Gun to

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of a comfort it is to me
to know I have you at
home waiting for me.

I guess I have written
a young book. If I don't
look out I may get the
censor on my trail for
writing to long letters. I
am well though, and although
I grumble some, I get along
first rate. We work some,
but we do not overwork,
and we are all hoping to
hit the Germans one of
these days.

This is going to be a
lonely Christmas and
one without you Grace. In
one of your letters you said,
"what a Christmas it



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get. I guess Arline knows that Ben does not care for her. Well so it goes Grace, but you will never have to say that about me dearest. Now, now, my dear. What relationship do I hold toward Josephine Peterson, pray tell. Go ahead and tear, so if I care.

Foolish not by a long way, because I do the same thing. Some of your letters I just about know by heart. Your letters give me such a comfort, that I go to them as often as I can. How glad I am that I got you before I left Grace. You don't know and never will how much



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would be if I could come home. When I think of being here and so far from you I feel so lonely and sad. But it is so and we will make the best of it, won't we dearest.

Best regards to your folks and I thank Billie for his kiss. Grace kiss him for me.

To you my dear sweetheart I send all my hearts love with mistakes, from your lonely soldier boy.

Dave.

Enclosed are 6 kisses my dear.



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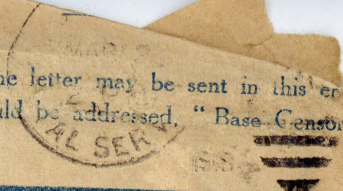
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Private David L. I. Lee.
43rd Company,
6th Regiment,
U. S. Marines.
A. E. F.

Ralph
2nd Lt name

Must not be used for money or valuables. Cannot be registered. Not to be censored regimentally but liable to censorship at the Base.

More than one letter may be sent in this envelope. In this case it should be addressed, "Base Censor."



I certify that the enclosed letter or letters refer to personal or family matters only, and that they contain no reference to military or other matters forbidden by censorship regulations.

Address only.

(Name) *David L. Thor*

Rank *Private*

COUNTERSIGNED

J. B. [unclear]

Rank *Private*

Miss Grace Shogren

1000 N. Lockwood Ave.

Chicago, Illinois

U. S. A.

