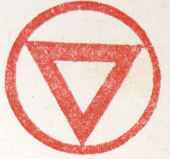



 ARMY AND NAVY  
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

September 19, 1917

My own dear Grace:-

My dear, do you remember five months ago tonight? When I said good-bye to you and left for Paris Island. Little did I think that night, of what we would go through, but on looking back I am glad things have turned out as they have. I wonder how many months before I will come home for good, can you tell me.

We had to parade before the Major General Commandant ~~and~~ of the Marine Corps today, and we were highly commended on our good showing. Now the only thing is to see how many Germans we can kill.

How to answer your letter of the 17 I received this noon.


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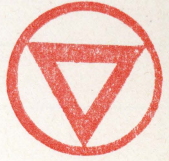
I hope you received the letter you were expecting, so you could answer it that night.

So, the boys are leaving. I hope them good luck, but I wouldn't want to be in their boots for money. They are recruits and I am not. Gee, I would like to see Roy B. drilling under some sergeant. I hope they call my cousin pretty soon. He is a ~~little~~ baby, old as he is. You understand Gabe, I have what you call family love, or haven't I, which? Pastor Swenson is my ideal of a minister. He is a man that gets along with young people as well as old.

I shame on you for teasing Fannie. Don't you know better? I hope Betty comes back to her


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after the war. It would hurt her awfully if he didn't.

I hope I see that fellow. Not much chance as he is in the army. But stranger things than that have happened in this world. I hope he was serious in wanting to live a new life. There are so many like him, that really want to live a clean life, but when the real test comes they fall.

I said I would write you about Gunnar. I guess he is down to the bottom now. He can straighten himself out if he wants to, if not I say good night. Sunday he received a "special" from Goldie, she thinking he left with the boys on Sunday. Monday he

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received another letter from her and he let me read it. I gave him a serious talking to and <sup>staid him</sup> to get the part of a man. His chance had come. Goldie said she truly loved him and would wait for him till he came home. She said he was always in ~~his~~ her thoughts and oh how she wished he loved her. Arling has written just about the same. She to is willing and wants to wait for him to come home. They both asked if he wanted them to wait and both told of their love for him. I told him either to tell both, he did not love them, because I think that is the truth, or tell one to wait


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and tell the other he did not love her, but wanted her as a friend. Goldie it seems to me cares more for him than does Arline. At least her last letter speaks that way. I have told Sumner I am through telling him what to do and now he could do whichever ever he chooses. I hope he does the right thing to them. If, what I think is right, he would tell both he does not love them and therefore not to wait for him. What do you think my dear?

I opened up my heart to you last night and I felt very much better after it. I want you to feel. Good dear, that I trust you and I am


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going to open my heart to you and tell you all its secrets. Why shouldn't it be so. After we trust each other, then we are ready to give each other sympathy. What is love, when we know that we have that, if it is not to help each other? I wonder, if we could talk face to face, whether we would voice our opinions in this way. I believe I would, what do you say Grace? Do you understand what I mean?

No candy yet. I am patiently waiting for it and I hope it will come tomorrow. I have made a new friend Grace. He is a young fellow like myself. He smokes, but I like him real well. Of


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late we have become chummy.  
 He has told me about his  
 friend and his home, he is a  
 quite quiet fellow and not  
 one of these rough ones. You may  
 know that though, if I choose  
 him as a friend.

Best regards to your  
 folks. Good night my dear.  
 All my love I give to ~~to~~ you  
 with mistakes,  
 Your own Marine boy,  
 Dave.

S. W. B/K's.