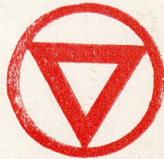



 ARMY AND NAVY  
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION


"WITH THE COLORS"

October 9<sup>th</sup>,

1917.

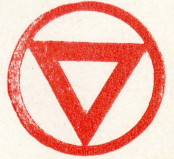
My own dear Grace:-

Yes, when was your mind? I received your letter today, but not as a special on account of our affair force. But I am glad I did get it when I did.

I Well perhaps I am a little spoiled my dear, but I won't say all spoiled by any means.

Say, of course I enjoy my slum. If I didn't get slum at least once a day I wouldn't feel at home. When the slum is good I sure do eat it. Slum and beans are about the only things that stick to us, that is why we get so much of it.

I am so glad and thank full you can trust me, Grace. I am going to be the victor.


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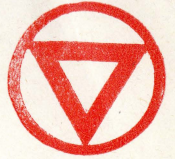
every time too. You will never be sorry you trusted me my dear.

I have learned to be patient by this time, but I know I have more to learn when I get across. I can just see my nights and how lonesome I am going to be. Grace you can't imagine how glad I am that I asked you to wait for me, because now I can look back home and know you are there and no doubt at the same time I am thinking of you, you are thinking of me. That will be my biggest help and comfort.

Go ahead and tease me, see if I care. You can't get me peeved. Try and find out. This is Wednesday night and oh


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how I wish I could be with you and could tease you a little. I feel that way to-night.

I am so glad my letters sound as of old and that you feel it is you boy writing again. I want them to be that way all the time.

I thank you very much for sending me your folks wishes.

Don't let the boss find you writing me instead of your work. I might get angry if you did. Do you like your new work? I hope you do.

Oh Grace how glad you make me feel when you say you are trying to be cheerful just for me. I know it is


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hard, but that makes you so much dearer and precious to me.

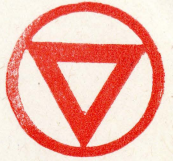
Now for your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> also received today.

Oh just a little surprise. I did not know whether I should have sent it, because I knew you would think it telling you of my leaving, but again I wanted to and so I did. I did not write so it was for its place. See.

You have felt mean. You don't mean that, do you? Don't allow the blues to get a hold of you in that way, Grace. That is not right. All the time I am thinking of you and I care very very much for you. If the whole world should go


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against you my dear, you will find me waiting for you. I am glad the telegram did not tell you of my leaving. I want you to be happy and cheery that day. I hope it did you a little good. Did it brace?

If you ~~could~~ could see my knife you might turn cold. It is about 15 in long about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in ~~wide~~ <sup>thick</sup> and 2 in wide and sharp. No German will be able to withstand me should I even get the opportunity to use it. I hope I never will have to use it. We were out taking our pistols apart today. We must be able to take them apart and put them together blind folded. I will know any old gun by


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the time I get out of this service. Well a Marine is supposed to know pretty much and believe me I am learning.

Thanks for your forgiveness my dear. I knew you would. You are correct as usual Grace dear. I do get lonesome and very much too, but I try not to put too much in my letters. I know how you feel and if I put all in it would only make you feel bad. Yes, you win. A gin in this time. Aint I game?

Pastor Gordon may have a surprise for our young people. I hope <sup>all</sup> you will like him and that he can do some good for our young folks. I wish I could be home this


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winter. I hope I will be home  
 by next winter though. What  
 if I am not? I won't think of  
 that though. Oh this is some  
 life, this service life. It is  
 good for two things. Do you  
 know what they are? I suppose  
 not so I am not going to tell  
 you. How's that. Don't get mad  
 my dear.

I will close now.

All my love and trust with  
 mistakes are for you my darling  
 from your own true boy,  
 Dave.

S. 9. 3 P's.