

October 15, 1917.

My own darling Grace; -

When I came home from Washington last night I found two letters from you and it was a new world came. At least so it seemed.

There never will be another difference my dear. It does hurt too much and nothing is gained. I don't believe that old saying of "True love never runs smooth." do you? I think it can and ought to do so.

Absent minded, you haven't nothing on me. Sometimes when we drill and commands are given I drop off and my thoughts are either of you or of home. If I didn't know my drill as well as I do I would get a bawling out many times.

Oh my darling, it is so sweet to hear you say those words, "You are praying for me." You will never know what it means to me. You may be sure I am coming home a better man all the way around.

Aps write as often as you can. The postage rate will not change, but perhaps, - unless you want to - you would not want to write every day. I am going to write as often as I can. Those minutes of my writing will

be my minutes of comfort.

I wonder how many Wednesday evenings I have wished for my little girl, to have her at my side, but as you say my dear, it is a case of grin and bear it. 50-50.

Must have been some meeting if you say so. I feel pretty good today, why I am not feeling just right you know by this time. The time is just a few hours away. I too have wandered many times, why should it be so; As much as I hate to ~~see~~ leave I am glad to go. I feel as Nathan Hale did, I am sorry - if the time should come and I should be called to die - that I have but one life to give. Grace I am not afraid to die, but I want to live, now I have you and then my parents, oh I hope God will bring me back home if only for mother's sake. Gods will be done.

If a ton was lifted when you sent that message equally as much and more was lifted when I received it.

Just as soon as we have showed the Kaiser a little he will be glad to give up.

I am so glad my Darling that we can go 50-50 in carrying the burden. I am very happy as it is now. I wouldn't

allow you to carry the whole burden for anything. Perhaps you have more aches than I but I know what they are and you have enough to carry half, if anything I should carry all, but that can't be done.

Grace listen, "what would a letter mean to me if your heart was not in it? If you put on instead of just telling how you felt. It is what's behind the words that count and I know your heart is back of your letters and they help me.

Yes I think it is best that ~~we~~ I go as it is. Oh I would give most anything for one farewell again, but be brave my dear I am coming back soon and then you can greet me a welcome as you only can.

This is my farewell letter Grace. We leave at six thirty to-morrow morning. My heart calls for a last farewell kiss, but I know I can't have it so I must be as cheerful as I can. It is hard to leave and perhaps never to return, but if not you know where we will meet. I feel

sure of coming home again though to you  
and mother. It may be a year or better,  
but I will come home again. Good bye  
my darling sweetheart till we meet again.  
with all love a heart can hold with  
mistakes from your own true sweetheart.  
Dave.

S. H. 512's.



In a dugout at the front.  
ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

April 10, 1918.

My own darling Grace:-

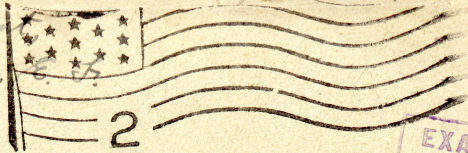
I have two of your precious letters to answer this morning dearest and as everything is quiet I will answer them. I am well and happy darling, that is as happy as I can be where I now am. But oh darling if I could only be with you how happy I would be. But the time is coming dearest.

Letter of Mar 11.

Aye Grace dear, that is the only way to be, because there is no other way, but wait patiently. Some times I nearly lose all patience and want to go, but I can't.

Aye, I recived a letter from home saying they were sending me a box. No. yet it has not come, but parcels travel slower than

3 Company  
U. S. Marine



EXAMINED  
by  
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