

October 1, 1917.

Grace Dearrent:-

Now to answer your letter of the 29. I received your candy thought and I wish to thank you very much for it. I have not opened it as yet because I wanted to hurry down to the Y.M.C.A. before it gets crowded, so I can give you answer. I will tell you later how it tastes.

I would say it would be luck if I got to stay in this ~~same~~ country, but as it looks now there is not much chance.

I am so glad my ~~own~~ dear that you feel so, that you would not change places with anybody for

me. It helps me so much
and it strengthens my trust
in you. My dear you will
never have cause to feel that
your trusting me has been
in vain. I am going to be
a true christian at all times.
I have found that it is the
only way ^{to} live and make
life a success. I don't have
to tell you this because you
know it.

Grace dear, what makes
you ask me those questions?
I wrote you in my letter
yesterday what was on
my mind, but since I have
told it to you I have
felt at peace. For some
time that has been bothering

me, but today not once has
it come to me until I read
your letter. I believe that
thought is the one that has
been in my letters and that
it is a thought from the
devil. I know and I promise
you my darling, that it
will never bother me again.

Grace dear, I do love you
and more every day. Oh how
I wish I was home to
prove this to you. I know
it is very hard to write
love in letters and when
we are so far apart. Grace,
listen dear, do you think
I ever could have asked you
to wait for me if I had

not looked to the future and
had seen that you are the
girl I want some day to
help me share my joys and
sorrows. Don't you think
I have thought that other
girls might come into my
life, but I have pledged
myself to you no matter
what other girls should
come. You know that I
am a man of my word. I
keep my promises and I
never would have allowed
you to love me if I did
not love you in return and
wanted you for mine. Oh
how I wish I could prove
this to you in some other

way, other than words. I
have tried to prove to you
in various ways that I trust
you and love you. I know
how it is and I did not
know my letters made you
doubt me. I hope my dear
Grace that you will forgive
me for hurting you in this
way. It hurts me to know
that I have hurt you in
this way. I never would
do it intentionally, you
know this. I have felt
blue all afternoon after I
read your letter, because
I know I love and trust
you and I don't know in
which way to prove it

to you clearer. All I can
ask you to do Grace, is to
take my word until I can
come home and prove to you.
You know my past life
and I as a Christian could
not fool you and when it
comes to a persons heart, oh
I could never do it. I care for
and love you too much for
that. Grace answered me a few
questions, do you think I
could have asked you to
wait for me till my return
(knowing that it would
probably be a few years, and
perhaps not at all) if I
did not love you. I mean
with real love and trust

in my heart for you? I had reasoned it out for myself that you would be giving up a lot of things while waiting for me and would no doubt give up chances to get ~~letter~~ a better life's companion than I will make, but I knew I wanted you and I loved you and you loved me so I asked you and Grace dear, please don't ever doubt my love and my trust in you again, because I do and it is growing every day. Grace you do love me and trust me

until I come home to you
again, and you have never
felt sorry that you ever
promised me, you would
wait for me. I am going
to ask you to do some
thing for me. Telegraph
me this answer if you feel
that this letter has healed
the wound that I made
and that you will never
~~doubt~~ doubt me again.

"Everything is fine, Dave, love."
Then I will be sure to get
an answer before I leave
should it be this week
and then write me a letter
telling me just how

you feel. If I leave before
the letter comes, it will
follow me, and still I will
have your answer. Oh how
I hope I have cleared every-
thing for you darling and
that you feel your self
again.

I hope you will like
your new ~~work~~^{play}. You
will soon become accustomed
to it.

You are forgiven with
all my heart. It did
hurt me, but I have
forgotten it by now and
I hope you have done

the same.

I made a new record
on our machine gun today.
I have the betta of any
man on our crew. I took
the gun apart ^{and put it together} in 5 min.
and 38 seconds. I feel
very good over it, and I know
you will too. They can't
hold a good man down,
no matter where he is.
I am going to do better
yet.

Our weather is becoming
pretty chilly, but we
have our winter ~~in~~ clothes
so let it come and our

squad rooms are fixed up
for the winter so I am not
worrying.

My dear I hope I
have healed that sore in
your heart, as it has
hurt me as much as you.

Best regards to your
folks.

All my love and trust
I have in you my darling
and with mistakes for you
from your own true Marine
boy,

David.

S. W. 511's.