



UNITED STATES MARINES

August 18, 1917.

My own dear Grace:—

Well I

feel better today, much better. I almost felt ashamed of the letter I wrote yesterday, but I had to write something and I did not want to mislead you so I wrote as I felt and I know that is the way you want me to do, isn't it my dear.

I have not done a bit of work

Today so I have had a lot of time to think. I was thinking when we were last Saturday at this and that time. Five or six times I would look at my watch and think of last Saturday. Just think that was a week ago and now we are over 800 miles apart with one whole hours difference. Isn't this world cruel? It is now six o'clock (five your time) we were on our way home. Ah my darling if we only could have had one more week, but I suppose I would have felt the same when it came to leaving. But just wait until I come home. Then I want to meet you at the station. See?

No, Grace, I did not get off the train when I came back. I won't go to Washington until pay day now, that will be about the third of September. I will have my picture taken then. There will only be a few who will get a copy. Some of my relatives, one for you and one for home. See how selfish I can be. I have something else to get for you. I promised you a long time ago. Remember? It won't be a diamond yet Grace, but just a little keep sake. I suppose you

have been wondering if I have forgotten my promise or not.

That was fine of your mother to think of me, tell her I will write a letter. You don't realize how a couple of bible verses can help a person when it is what he needs.

I heard some news that came from reliable sources ~~to~~ yesterday. If we are here after Sept. 1, we are here for the winter. That means I may be home for Christmas. Oh how I hope it is true. By the time they get ready to send us to France the war will be over.



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See how selfish I am?

We had a fire call night before last. Just as we had gotten to bed, (I was nearly to sleep) the fire call sounded. Let me tell you it did not take us long to get out. There was a fire at the other end of camp so we were not obliged to go over. Such is military life. Can't even sleep when you want to.

I am sending under separate

cover some pictures taken a few weeks ago. The light reached some and spoiled them. I had some of Gunnar but I ~~do~~ will not send them, unless you want them.

Good for you my dear. Don't let the old women slip any thing over on you. It would be "good night" if they got a hold of it. Oh say wouldn't the ears buzz if it got around. I will leave it to you for I know you are capable of taking care of it. I know my girl that much. Don't I Grace?

Don't you think I feel better
tonight? Is my letter the kind
that would show my feelings are
different than they were yesterday?

Send my regards to your folks,
for you, my self and my love and
mistakes my Azziz, who I left behind,

Your True Marine boy.

Dave.

S. W. 2/R's.