

Wed. Aug. 8, 1917

Dear Little Girl,

Every time I read your letters you seem so close that I want to reach out and hug you tight. I wish you were that near, but your letters are a great deal of comfort to me, and I hope you won't let even a day slip by. I don't feel homesick any more, among these fellows, but just that longing for you. It may be a long time before we see each other again, but don't ever forget how much I love you, and don't ever doubt it, whatever may turn up.

(Over)

(2)

Everything seems to point out that we go to the East coast headquarters about Sept. 15th. We are working hard — tonight we even drilled after supper during a rain. This morning we had telegraph one hour, wig-wag one hour, and two hours of drill at erecting and operating a field wireless station. The latter is carried on two pack mules.

An efficient company can unpack and set up a fifty foot mast and get the set in order in a very few minutes. Every man must be on the alert and be there with the team-work. It is the same with everything and it sure is interesting work. We also had an hour of

(3)

squad drill this morning.
Our drill after supper was
in forming a company
square. In this, the company
forms a four sided guard
about its officers in the
center. In case of attack,
like a riot, the men face
out and protect their leaders.
There are many different
marching commands that a
soldier has to learn to
execute in the proper way and
at the right instant. In
walking lockstep, the soldier's
forward foot has to step
ahead of the ~~feet~~^{next} man's rear
foot. In order to do this, one
has to walk like Papa. Can
you imagine how awkward
it is for me? As I said

(4)

before, we a a good decent bunch of officers, and that helps a lot. We have finished with our shelter tent drills, and the tents are shipped — East, I guess.

This afternoon we learned how to pack a field wireless set on the mules.

The latter are the real Missouri article and have to be fitted with binders while being packed. We were just issued some fancy dress gloves of soft olive & drab leather. We have to be very particular about our personal appearance. —

no watch fobs or tips of a handkerchief are allowed to show, and everything must be kept scrubbed clean. Our

(5)

beds must be made just so
and our lockers fixed in
a certain way. This all
sounds old maidish, but
it is simply meant to have
everything look the same.

Each of us has to take
our turn at serving in the
kitchen. I haven't yet,
but have served my day as
orderly. Of course we all
have our own "housework" to
do before first drill call at
seven o'clock. A bachelor's
life may be a gay one but
give me a good home with
a little girl in it. Well the
"lights out" bugle has just
blown so I will have to quit.

(6.)

Thurs. P.M.

Biting your fingernails —

I sure am glad that you have rooted out this little weed of weakness. Isn't it a "grand and glorious feeling" when one's better (or plus) self wins one of these little scraps with your "minus" self. It takes a long time before you really realize how important these little victories are.

I got a fine letter from your mother yesterday. Your letter from Field's came today. Did you get mine? I hope you will have the best of good times in Chicago. I can't help but feel glad that you are just the least bit lonesome.

(7)

My folks sure will have
a new cousin to be proud
of if I have my way about
it.

I know I can't ask you
to always like me, but I
do ask you to promise to
tell me when you feel the
least change.

Please don't show my letters
to anyone, especially Lauretta.
She is one mighty fine girl but
her heart stopped growing
long before yours did. (It has.)
She would laugh and
say "O Plush," like you do.

But I think you will
understand that I am trying
to make you feel how much
I do care for you.

Yours, Forrest.



LEAVENWORTH

AUG 9 - 17

9 - 30 PM

KANS.



Miss Ava Marie Shaw

3643 Ravenswood Ave.

c/o Will Bassett

Chicago, Ill.

If not delivered in Ten days return to

Forrest W. Bassett

Co. A - 6th Fld Btl. S.C.

Fort Leavenworth,

Kansas

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
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(IN THE FIELD)

GENERAL OFFICE

124 EAST 28TH STREET,

NEW YORK, U. S. A.