



NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"WITH THE COLORS"

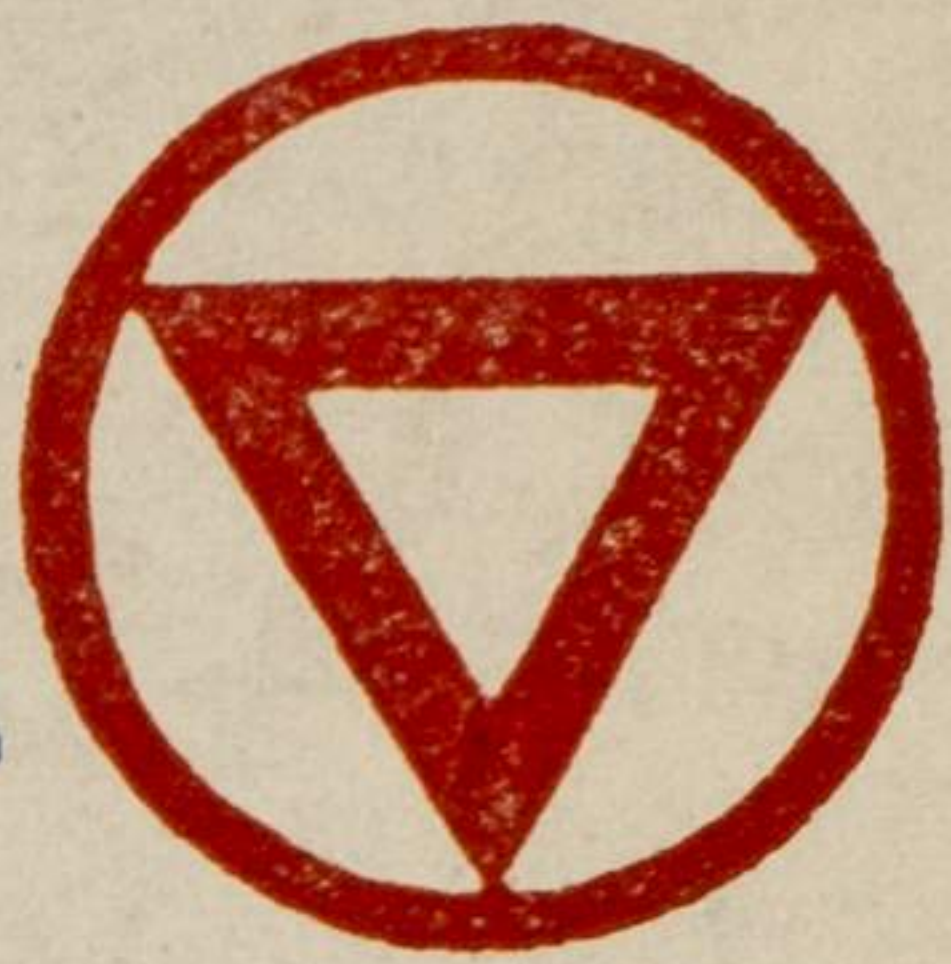


Thurs. Dec. 6, 1917

Dear Marie,

Your letters and the typed letters all came O.K. The latter will be read by every man in the Company. Last night I typed an extra copy for Sgt. Baber. This afternoon Sgt. Brown said that he read that in a recent raid on German trenches the American forces found the heads of the thirteen U.S. captives stuck up on bayonets in the trench. I don't believe it but I'll [things] bet there are more barbarous of this sort done than we ever hear or think about. Believe me I know one American they won't get alive.



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I was awfully sorry to hear about the bad cold and sure do hope you are feeling good now.

Some time I hope you will be sufficiently considerate of my feelings to tell me when you are getting cold the way you did Saturday. We have our troubles with the cold weather, too. Here's the day's program.

Rise at 5:45. Assemble in ranks in front of barracks at 5:55. Reveille at 6:00.

Calisthenics 6:00 - 6:15.

The stars are still out and it's so dark that one can hardly see what way the drill master is doing each exercise. Make up beds



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and clean up, 6:15 — 6:30.

Mess call at 6:30.

Breakfast of pancakes,  
butterine, syrup, grape-nuts,  
canned milk, sugar,  
coffee, stewed figs.

After mess we sweep  
out and fuss up the barracks.

Assemble for drill at ~~7:25~~.

7:25. March up to stables,  
(a little over a mile and a  
half), get there at 8:00  
and groom our horses until  
9:00, then saddle up for  
mounted drill out in the  
field. We assemble in regular  
section formation and ride  
to the drill grounds in  
a column of twos.

This morning it was so  
cold that when I walked



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from the toilet "shack"  
to the barracks, about  
200 feet, my wet hair  
was frozen into big  
curls. Off my hair  
was only longer, I could  
have cut one off and  
sent it to you, 'aint it so?  
When we watered the  
horses, the ice was frozen  
an inch and a half thick  
in the tank. Big drops  
froze on Ten's head just  
while going to the picket  
line. Gee, but it sure was  
cold. We ride without  
overcoats on so I kept one  
hand in my pocket most  
of the time. Some of the  
fellows in the other sections  
had to lead mules and



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I'll bet they pretty near  
froze their fingers.

We dismounted once  
to adjust our saddles,  
and warm our feet by  
running around in circles.  
When I first got on my feet  
they were sore and stiff  
from the cold. At 11:05,  
we headed for the stables  
at a good fast trot and  
at 11:15 we had our saddles  
hung up, and worked  
until 11:30 rubbing our  
horses dry. We got home  
at noon and ate dinner  
at 12:15. From 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.  
we had some snappy  
infantry foot drill.  
The hour, 2:00 - 3:00  
was spent practising



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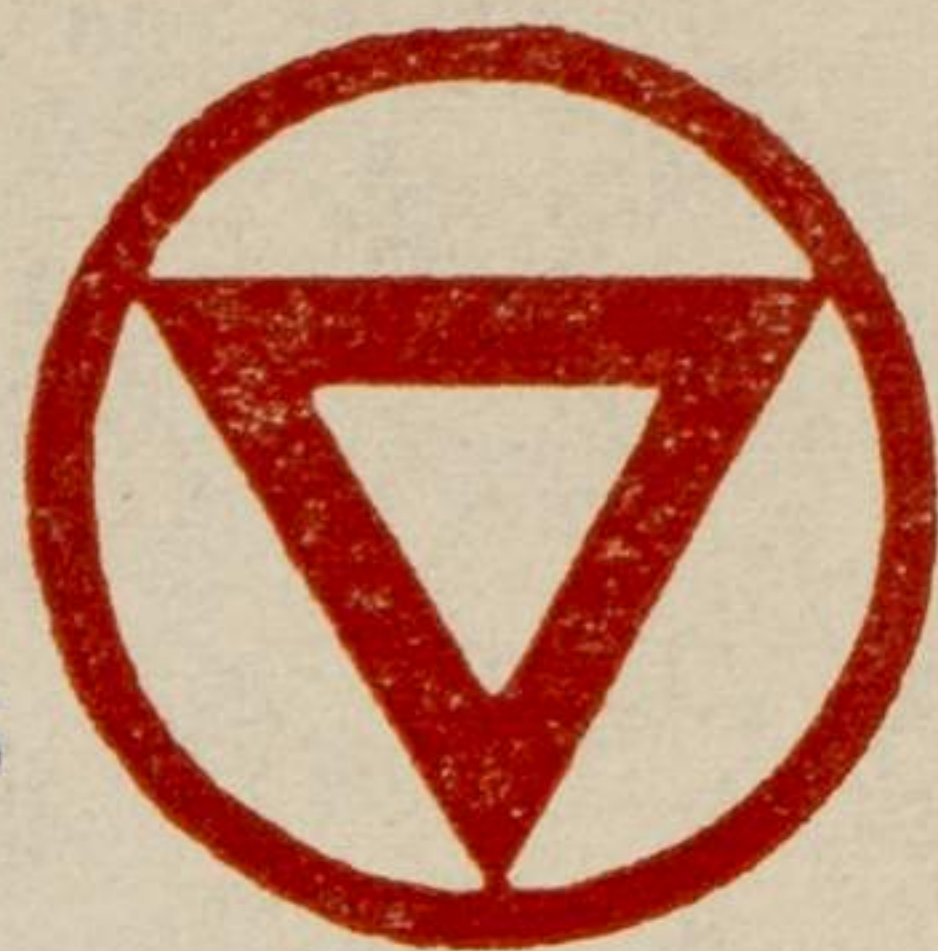
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with wigwag and semaphore.  
We had buzzer telegraph  
practise from 3:00 till 4:00  
The rest of the afternoon  
was spent memorizing  
guard orders.

Hash was dished out  
at 5:15. Retreat roll call  
at 6:00. Then walk to the  
City to write to the  
suspect little girl.  
I wonder if she can read  
this awful writing —  
and does the story of our  
day's work really interest  
her? Will you tell me?

Last Tuesday was a  
pretty busy day. Walked  
to Stables and back twice  
which amounts to about  
7 miles. Groom horses



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an hour in the morning and  
ride all the rest of the  
morning and nearly all  
of the afternoon.

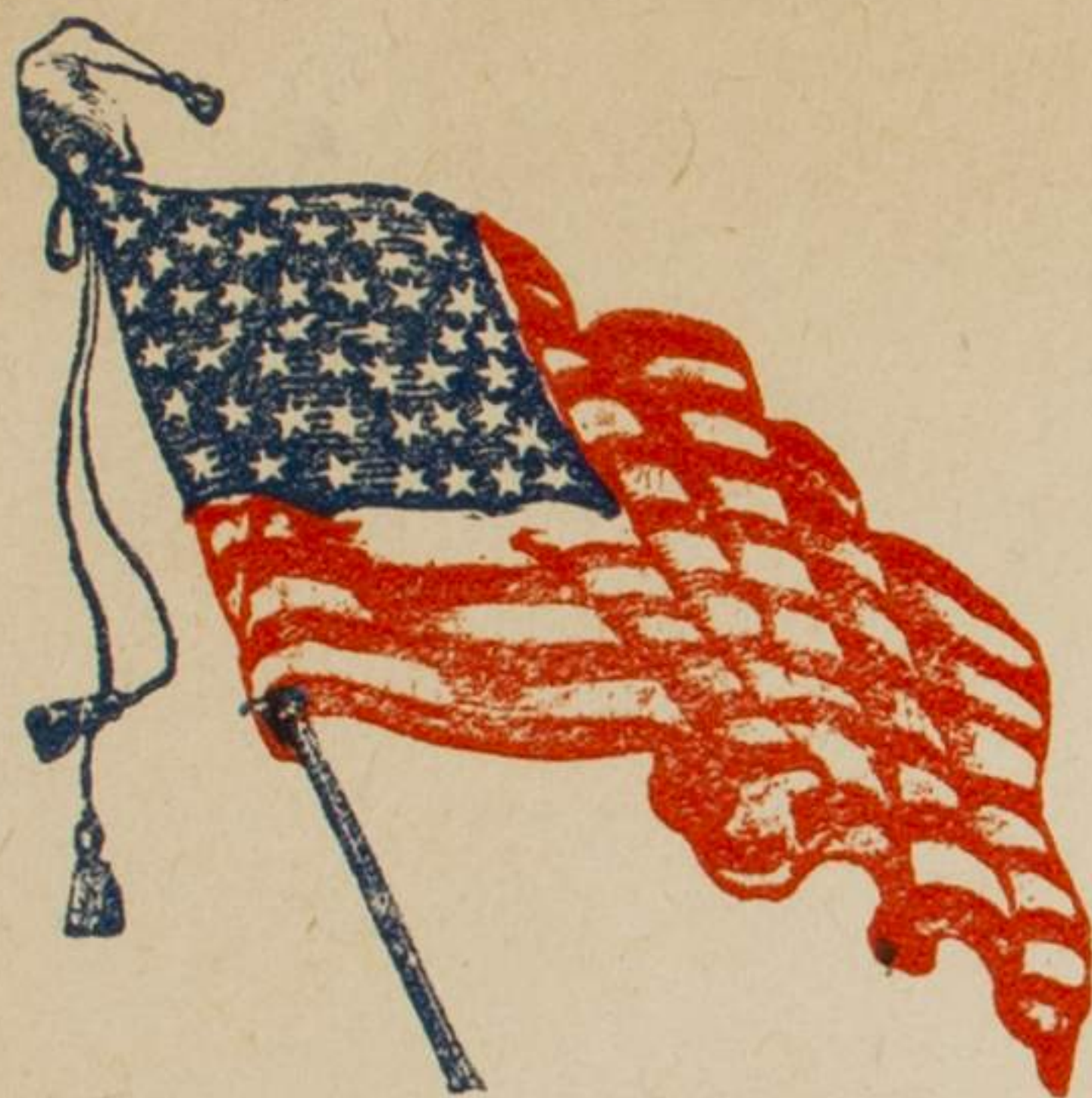
I then walked to  
town and started a letter  
to you but gave it up after  
writing nearly a page.

I wish I could think  
of something to write  
every day if you like  
my letters nearly as  
well as I do yours.

Well I guess I will  
quit. Stock says he is  
"all in" and wants to  
go home.

With love,  
Forrest.





LEAVENWORTH,

DEC 6 -17

9—30 PM

KANS.



Miss Ava Marie Shaw

389 Highland Ave.

Beloit, Wis.