

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"WITH THE COLORS"

Sat. Jan. 5. 1917

Dear Marie,

The dates came fine and sure were good. I was afraid that they were lost. There is Ja Bassett in the Co. C-6th. F. Bn. S. C., and he got one of your letters but brought it down to me unopened. I think if you make the Co. "A" with a printed "A" some of our nearsighted mailmen won't make mistakes. Thanks to you for the sweets. "Jeri" says he never eats such truck but will have apples instead. My hair is growing slow but sure. You remember how very short it was



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when I came home?

Our Company went on guard Thursday. I was put on Post No. 1, which is the guard house at the Cantonment. It boasts of three prisoners. I had the hours between 4:45-6:45 and 10:45-12:45, day & night. During the day I had the front of the guard house only and at night, two store-houses extra. It was pretty cold but not as bad as some nights. I got pretty handy at "pulling the gun"; at everyone has to be challenged with the pistol raised. Of course the no one is challenged



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except at night but Post #1 is as busy one as the officers of the guard are coming in from inspection tours about every 15 minutes.

I think we will get out this month. The Major of the Bn. told us in a speech that we were going out unless a counter-order was issued. This would suit me fine only it would take our letters longer to reach each other. Also there is a big chance of the Co. "A" being motorized. The 1st Sgt. was looking for men in the Co. who could use motorcycles.

I like the horses though and am on "Ten" a great deal.

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Last Sunday I got a mounted pass, and a bugler by the name of Collins and I went out to the Cider farm that I told you about. We had a fine time going out and covered the five miles in short time. The lady at the farmhouse said there was no more cider but she offered us a big basket of apples for nothing. The juice was good to us. Well, ~~when~~ when Collins and I, and Zen had eaten all the apples we could, we started back. It started to sleet and the wet snow and sleet froze as soon as

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it hit the road. In about five minutes the roads were covered with a thin coat of ice. Our horses are all smooth shod as they fight and kick each other in the corral. The roads here, are just up one hill and down another and our horses soon had trouble keeping on their feet with that thin, hard glaze of ice. Pretty soon when we were walking down a rather steep hill, both of Jen's hindfeet slipped forward and he sat down pretty neatly. In a few minutes Collins did the same stunt and his horse

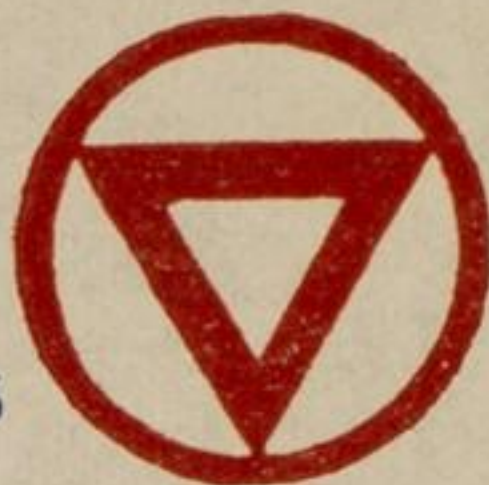
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fell twice while regaining his feet. We rode a few minutes longer then it got so bad we had to dismount and lead our horses. You would think that we could have ridden along the edge of the road where it wasn't hard, but no chance. We came to a plank bridge across a creek and believe me it sure was slippery. Every plank was glazed over with a coat of ice. I got Ten across alright but when Collins' tried to lead "Buck" across he fell and wouldn't

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ledge an inch. I tied
Jen to the fence and
went back. While I stayed
with his horse, Collins
scraped up some loose
earth and sanded a
path over the bridge.
Well finally the two
of us coaxed and pulled
the horse across but
it was slow work. We
had an awful time finding
the rough spots along
the road and there was
no place off the road
where a horse could go.
Well we finally got
to the stables ten hours
late, after an hour and
a half of plugging
along in the sleet and

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snow. Our saddles were all ice and my hat had a coat of ice all over the brim. The hat cord tassels were two balls of snow and ice.

We blanketed our horses and rubbed their legs then dried them all over. After this we walked them up and down the stable aisles for ten minutes. About six P.M. we headed for the barracks, but when we got to the Post Exchange we saw a Kansas City car waiting so we went to the City and got a good supper. There were fellows sleating up and down the

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paved streets of Lavenworth,
so you can see how it was.
We telephoned to the
first sergeant when at the
stables and nothing
more was said to us
when we got back. The
Co. has only been riding
once this week as
even the narrow paths
in the woods are so
slippery that a horse
can't stand up.

Well is getting close to
retreat so I guess I'll
have to close. Lauretta
tells me you are N. G.
when it comes to
answering her letters.

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(10) "Things to worry about." I got the snapshot of your house and it sure looks wintry. However, the warmth inside isn't the the thing that makes it look inviting to me.

I am enclosing my last mounted grass. Well I must catch the next car home or I will miss retreat.

With love,

Forrest.



A

TH THE COLORS

LEAVENWORTH,

JAN 5 -18

9—30 PM

KANS.



Miss Ava Marie Shaw
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Beloit, Wis.

F.W. Bassett, Co. A-6 7. Bn. S.C.
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