



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 a 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. "Jen" says she 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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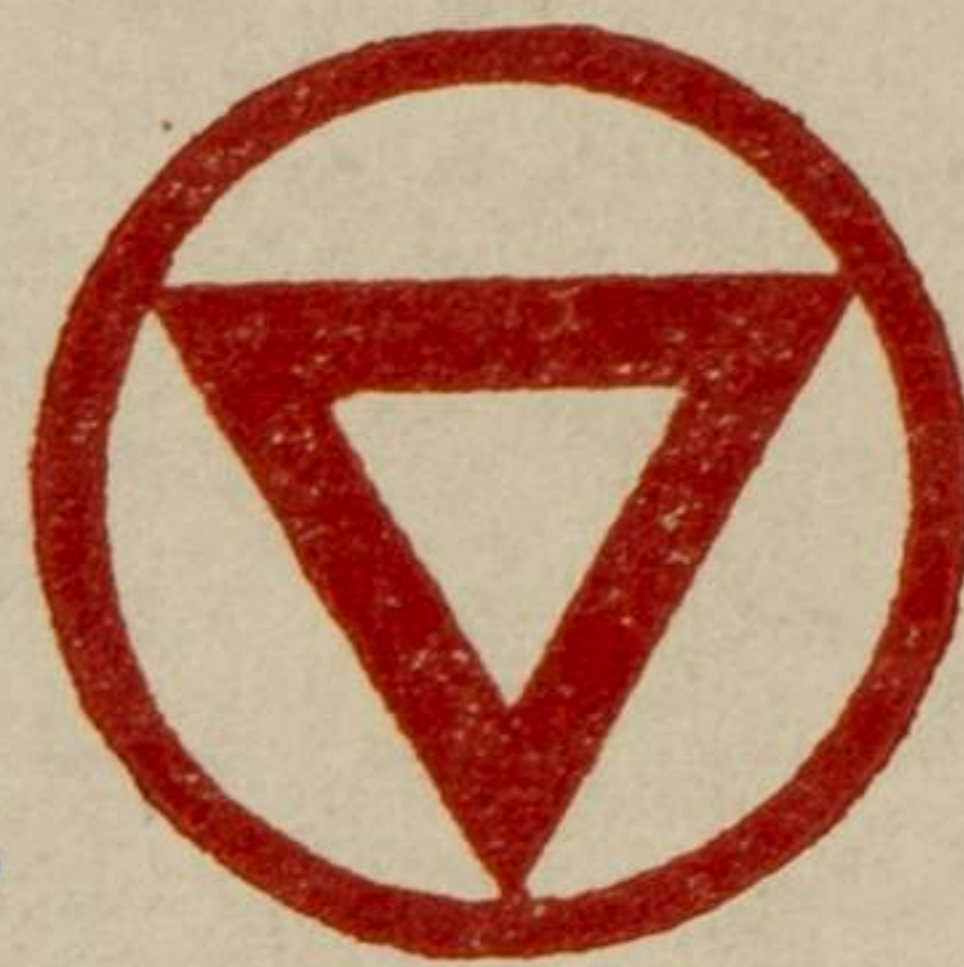
when I came home?

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 grin"; at everyone has to be challenged with the pistol raised. Of course the no one is challenged





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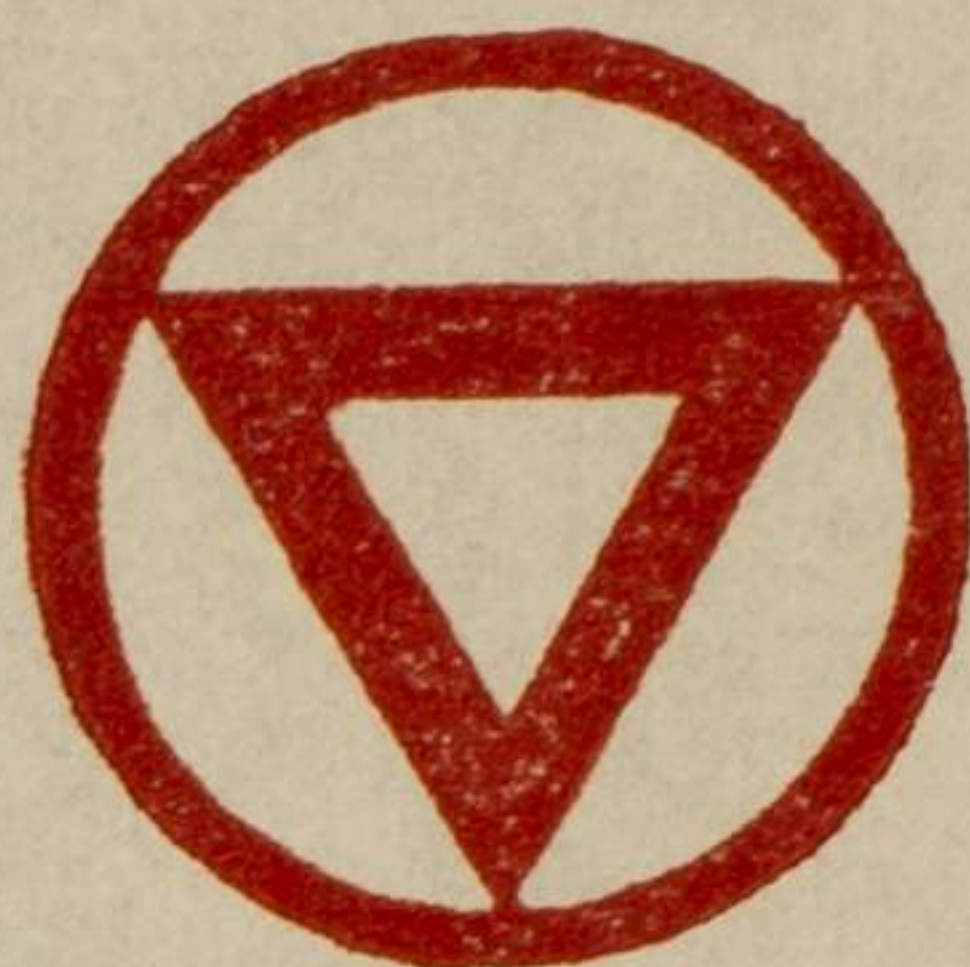
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except at night but  
Post #1 is as busy as  
the officers of the guard  
are coming in from inspection  
tours about every 15 minutes.  
I think we will go South  
this month. The Major of  
the Bn. told us in a speech  
that we were going South  
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 sure 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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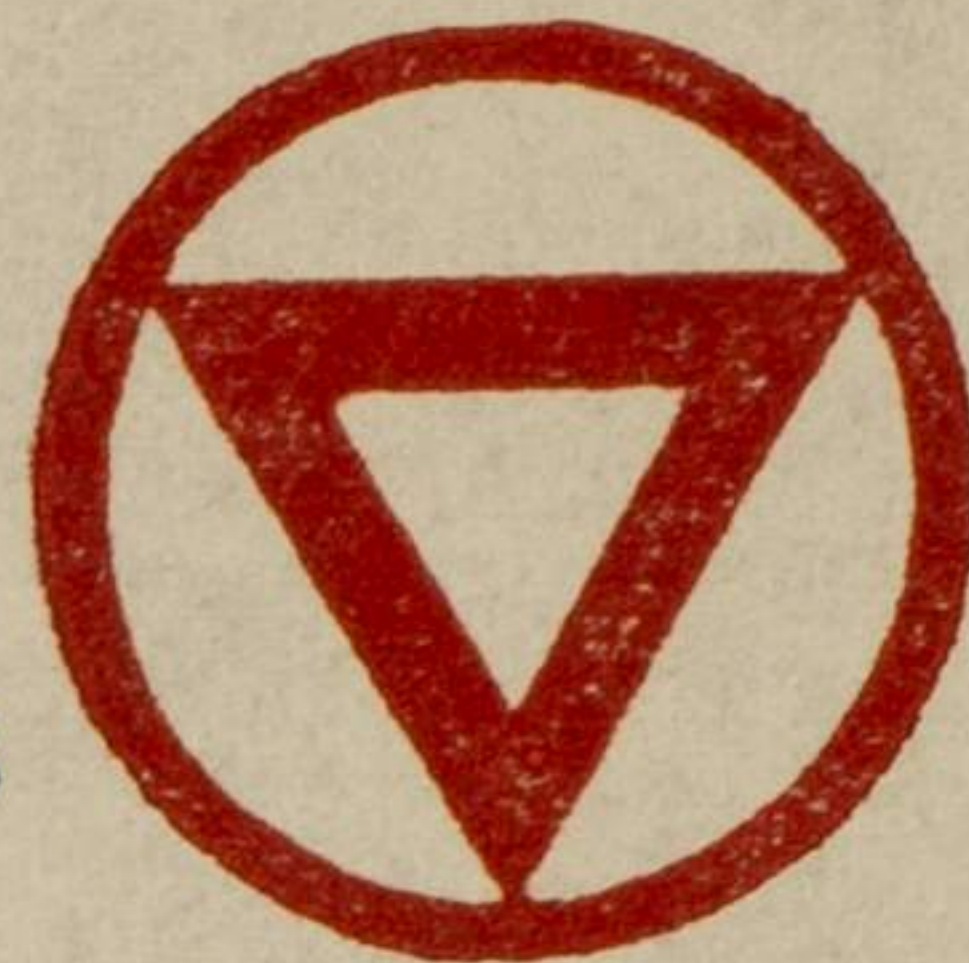
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it hit the road. In about five minutes the roads were covered with a thin coat of ice. Our horses are all smooth shod as they fight and kick each other in the corral. The roads here, are just up one hill and down another and our horses soon had trouble 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 or 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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bridge an inch. I tied  
him 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 an hour  
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 hatcord 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 floating up and down the

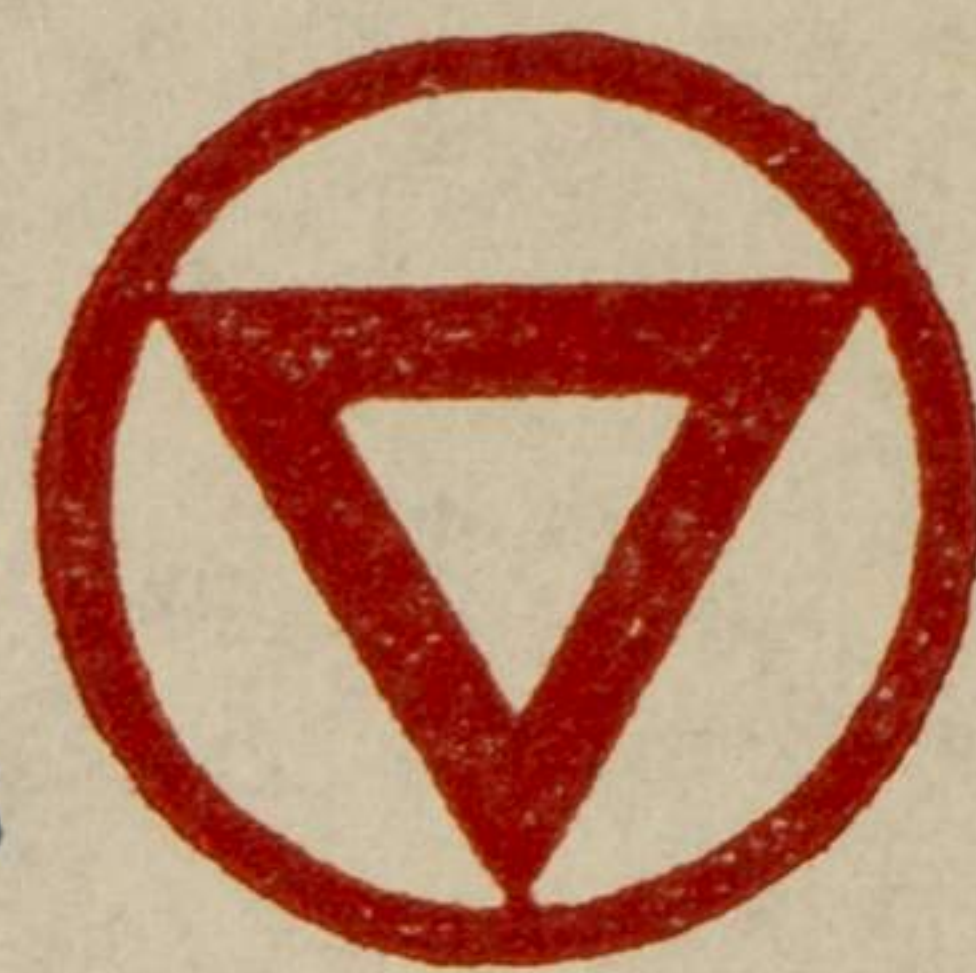




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paved streets of Lavenworth,  
so you can see how it was.  
We telephoned to the  
first sergeant when at the  
stables and nothing  
more was said to us  
when we got back. The  
Co. has only been riding  
once this week as  
even the narrow paths  
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.