



"WITH THE COLORS"



Jan 30, 1918

Dear Marie,

No letter came Monday nor Tuesday but three came today which made it all "fine" once more. You didn't tell me exactly what an Earth Treader is, so I am not justified in condemning the idea, however it doesn't "listen" very good to me. I would be glad to get a fruit cake from you, so you better get Blanche to show you how to make one. I would eat it all myself, too. — you see if the whole First Section were tied up



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(2.)

with a "tummy-ache,"
Co. "A" would be very
seriously crippled.

Marie, don't ever
think for a minute that
I will get tired of receiving
your letters. I am at
least as glad to get letters
from you as you are to
hear from me. But at
the same time I think
it would be better to
write every other day, as
lots of times I get two
letters on one day and
none the preceding day.

Now please, little
sweetheart, don't think
that I am tiring of you
in the least.



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(3.)

We rode all afternoon yesterday. As soon as we hit the hills we left the main ^{road} ~~road~~ and hit for the tall timber. You should have heard the hooting and yelling when we ^{got} in the woods. There is only about six inches of snow on the ground and the ground underneath is hard and slippery so we ^{not} could trot very much. Even at that we had a lot of fun. Our new first sergeant is a fine fellow. The other one was promoted and Sgt. Ryan took his



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(4.)

place. Sgt. Ryan is the
one that got kicked
just below the eye by
the same horse that
tickled me on the jaw.
I guess he will wear that
scar all his life.

The Co. had a big
test in Semaphore yesterday.
We are supposed to be
able to send and receive
five to eight words a minute
in wig-wag and ten to
fifteen words a minute in
Semaphore. The words are
supposed to average five
letters each. It is easy
to read wig-wag as
it is impossible to transmit
very fast with a large flag.



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(5.)

I didn't take the test as I was down to the class at the Army Service School. During the wigwag class period in the afternoon, I sent wigwag at the rate of eleven words per minute for a few minutes, and when I quit I had a blister on the side of my hand. Sending Semaphore is not so much work, but it takes lots of practice and a quick eye to get fifteen (that is 75 letters) a minute. This is about as fast as the average person writes. I can receive about twelve words and send about



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fifteen words per minute. Sometimes we semaphore French words and one is out of luck if ~~one~~^{he} misses a single letter.

This morning I froze the top of my left ear on my way to school. It was hard and stiff so I kept it in the snow until it got soft then I turned the cold water faucet on it. It is swollen up and is pretty blue and tender, but I guess it will be O.K. in a few days.

Tonight, Stock and I biked to town — an auto delivery took us most of the way.



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(7)

Tomorrow is muster day,
so we will have
Battalion inspection,
which means that yours
truly must scrub his
leggins before he hits
that little straw
bunk.

Stock says "That's
enough Basset, that's
enough" and I guess
he is right, dont you
think so?

With love,

Forrest.

I know this writing is
pierce but I had to hurry.



Leavenworth Community House

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Return to

F. W. Bassett.

Address

Co. A-6 7th Inf. V.C.



Miss Ava Marie Shaw
389 Highland Ave.
Beloit, Wis.