



"WITH THE COLORS"



March 19, 1918.

Dear Marie,

We sure are getting the warm weather here. The robins, bluebirds and meadowlarks are all over. We go on short hikes every day now, mostly to break in our field shoes, of which each man has two pair. These shoes are of rough unfinished leather, and have soles a half an inch thick, studded with round headed hobnails. The heels have a miniature horseshoe instead of the ordinary heel plate. All in all the field shoe is some boat.

(2) On the south side of the Fort is the Leavenworth nigger town. It is full of bootleggers and some of the signal men have been getting booze there. One night four Co. "C"-6th B.R. men got mixed up in a fight in which they killed a nigger. A young riot resulted and in a short time twenty more Co. "C"-6 men and a commissioned officer, all armed with Colts .45 auto pistols waded in and cleaned up the district. They kept a guard of P.R. men there for a couple days and now no Fort men are allowed within specified boundary of "coon town." It sure is a good thing even tho it cost one nigger's life to prove it.



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(3)

We are getting all kinds of guard duty now. The most tiresome I have had yet, was guarding a barracks of quarantined men. Scarlet fever, mumps and measles seems to have a hold on a number of the recruits just shipped in. The day I was on duty it was ordered to shoot the loose dogs so that they wouldn't be disease carriers. I got the twelfth and last one during the evening. The Colt .45 sure has a push in it that won't allow any argument. It is much easier to shoot than the .25 as it is

(4.)

easier to hold, and has the sights nearly three times as far apart.

Another guard we get is at the Leavenworth City terminal bridge. This is the only bridge crossing the Missouri River near here and it is used by troop trains. Each end is guarded and no vehicles or persons with packages are allowed to cross without first being searched for explosives. I went on guard Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. Each man has two hours on and four off so I had 4-6 & 10-12 P.M. on the Kansas end of the bridge. It was pretty lively between 10-11 Sunday night.



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There was a steady stream of autos during this hour leaving the City for small towns in Missouri. Believe me it was a lot of fun to make the pretty girls step around while looking for "all kinds of explosives," according to our orders. At

11 P.M. a man was hit by a train about a 100 yards from my post. His limbs were badly mangled and his skull was fractured. He died in the ambulance.

At 4:00 P.M. ^{Mon} the "A" Co. radio tractor came around with the new guard

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and took us back to the Fort.

Nearly every afternoon the Sixth Field Battalion has a big parade at 4:30 - 5:00 P.M. We are the only Signal Corps Battalion to have its own band and it sure is a band, too. This afternoon we passed in review before Colonel Allison.

Before we pass in review, we form a Battalion front and then the buglers play "Retreat". At the last note of this, the Major calls the B'n from "parade rest" to "attention" and we all salute individually when the band plays the "Star Spangled Banner". Then the Major commands, "Battalion pass in review, Squads right, — Ho," and



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(7)

the parade is started.
Great stuff aint it.
Well anyway it fills
a fellow with a good
healthy feeling that
he is doing his bit in
Uncle Sam's uniform.
I will always be thankful
that I shook loose of
Beloit at just the right
time even though I am
pretty sure of being in
service for at least a
year or two ahead.

Did you and Lou
& Mother get my cards
O.K.?

Tell Mother my
express package has not

(I) been taken from the
"Y" yet. With love,
Forrest.



LEAVENWORTH,

MAR 19 - 18

11—30 PM

KANS.



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

From

F. W. Bassett.
Co. A-67 Bn. S.C.
H. Leavenworth,
Kansas.

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL
OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES
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