



ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
"WITH THE COLORS"



April 25, 1918.

Dear Marie,

The letter I wrote to you from the City "Y" was returned unstamped --- I can't see how I overlooked it --- but anyway, that's why you didn't get it.

Well it wasn't a nice letter anyway - all about telegraphy. I don't think you ought to bother to learn to telegraph unless it really interests you very much. Otherwise it would be a waste of time. The International Code, European Morse Code, and U.S. General Service code all ~~all~~ exactly the same. You will find it given in the drill book in the chapter on Wig-Wag.





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(2)

Now if you really want to learn — learn right.

The proper way to hold the key knob, the position of the fingers and the movement of the forearm and wrist are all very important.

There is as much difference in different operators' "style" of sending as there is in their writing. Generally a good penman is a good transmitter, and vice versa.

A good arm movement is essential in both "pen pushing" and "key pushing". To an experienced ear, there is as much beauty in good, accurate, clear cut "Morse" as there is in a sheet of fancy writing.





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(3)

It is usually thought that receiving is much harder than sending, but I'll always say that the cultivation of a snappy, easily-read style of "crotching out the dots and dashes" is just as hard as learning to play exercises on a piano or learning to typewrite. However I really think you could learn to send perfect "Morse" if you want to.

So if you would like to try it let me know so I can tell you more about it.

My application for transfer has at last left the office but Lieut. Milbury warned me it may be blocked by the





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(4)

Major of the Battalion. Well if it is I sure will be some disappointed. Things have calmed down a little and I will probably have to "mark time" for awhile yet. Last Friday we did some rough weather maneuvers. It rained hard all morning with a cold, chilling north wind. We had to set up two radio stations in the field — one was the tractor set and the other the old type sets we had last summer. The 4th & 5th Sections set up the tractor radio & the 1st & 3rd sections operated the pack set.





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(5)

We (1st & 3rd) had a truck to take us out in the field and the clay was fierce. One hill stalled us and we got out and got behind.

Well we set up our station by the Engineers' trenches — the big tent and all.

It sure was an awful morning and I thought my fingers would freeze while we were putting up the antenna.

Everything went like clockwork and in record time. When we came in at noon we had the thick yellow clay up to our knees. I had to scrub my shoes, leggins and raincoat and shelter tent.





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(6) The visual signaling was not very efficient as the wind would tie up the wet flags about the sticks and it was very hard to see very far in the rain, even with the field glasses.

We just had another "all-around" physical exam yesterday and a couple "one-burgers" found. I guess they will not be discharged though.

Guess I'll have to call this enough for this time, or I won't have enough to write about next time.

With love,  
Forrest.





Miss Ava Marie Shaw

389 Highland Ave.

Beloit, Wisconsin



From

F. W. Bessett  
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Ft. Worth,  
Kansas

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