



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



April 27, 1918.

Dear Marie,

Your little note came this morning. I don't blame you a bit for feeling that I ought to write oftener, for I guess I haven't written much to anyone lately. Please don't think that I haven't thought of you much lately. And Marie, whatever you think don't get the idea in your head that I might think myself too good for you or that I ever tire of your letters.

My life before I came here seems more and more like a dream every day.



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When I look at those two portraits of you (I have them back again) I can hardly believe that I ever held you close in my arms.

It seems as if the days when we were together were years ago, and you seem like a big precious thing, altogether lost to me.

Well I don't suppose I ought to write to you this way, but I love you so much I can't always hold back the feeling it causes.

Lieutenant Kilbury is now a Captain and is our Company Commander.



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He has been in the Army all his life and has seen considerable active service. He is known all over the Fort as "Hardboiled Willie" and the title fits to a hair, for I don't believe any officer could be any more rigid in discipline than he is. He sure is just plain "Hard Boiled." He gave one man in our section five days in the guard house at hard labor for not marking his shoes with initials and Co. number. His favorite theme is absolute unyielding discipline — also that "Non-commis-



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sioned officers will win the war". Woe to the private that dares to speak to a non-com without addressing him as either "Corporal" or "Sergeant".

He made a little speech this morning in which he said that Co-A of the 6th was the crack signal outfit in the Army and that he was going to make it a Company that never need have fear of meeting anything superior. Well, there may be some "bunk" in that, but the Personnel Officer from Washington, who examined us for qualification as Signal Men, told



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Captain Murphy that
that ~~the~~ the men of "A"-Company
were of the highest class
he had worked with yet.

I guess my application
for transfer passed the
Major Abright. Captain
Hilbury marked my
character "Excellent," and
~~and~~ the Company Clerk
told me it was very unusual
for anyone to get higher
than "Very Good." So
I guess I may hope for
a transfer some day.
Sergeant Baber, my
Section Chief, has been
recommended for the
Officers Training Camp.
Sergeant Williams,



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who used to be my
Section Chief when I was
in the 5th Section; went
to the Officers training
camp last January and
is now a lieutenant.
Well it's a gay life
and I can't be worried,
and lose my Milwaukee
shape.

What kind of work
do you intend to do
this summer? I wish
you would write more fully.
I hate to think of you
working outside, especially
during a vacation.

With love,
Forrest.



Miss Ava Marie Shaw

389 Highland Avenue

Beloit, Wisconsin

From

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

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