

From

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



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



May 22, 1918.

Dear Marie,

I just finished a little note for you, so it would be mailed right away, so will write my letter now. Did you get all of my letters last week? I think I wrote two and another, typewritten, one about telegraphy. You read my "Morse" letter. Oh.

I just got your letter of the 18th & 19th this noon. Please keep a little note of the dates on your letters and then when you get my letters notice the dates on them and tell me so that I can be sure no letters are lost.



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(2)

I located Morse's company Monday night but he wasn't there so I left a note on his bunk. Last night he came down to the Cantonnments but it was after 9:30 P.M. so we had very little time ^{to} get acquainted.

Now please do not think I am even the least bit "peevish" because you wrote but once last week. Realize that you have not the time to write as often as I like to hear from you.

Marie, I know you must love me very much as there is not the slightest touch of insincerity in your letters. And I



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(3)

Know you too well to misunderstand you, I think. And, Marie I know you do not doubt me in the least, either. It's simply impossible for me to make you feel how very much I care, and I guess it would be better that you do not know, anyway. You must remember that I have told you that we can never "belong to each other," and that we we can never be more than good friends. Now Marie you simply must believe this. I would not tell you this if I were not sure of it, for it hurts me



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And I believe it hurts you, too, in a way. You will remember that I told you that if I were not very sure you would be glad to forget me in a few years, that I would not write another letter. I still say the same. For awhile last year I had hopes of your being "my little girl" some day but I no longer can hope that even if I were free to come back home now. There is no "little message" between the lines of my letters to you — except that I love you to the utmost. However, it is all useless



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(5)

and so I shall never
mention my love for you
again.

It may be better to
"love some one you can't
have, than to have someone
you can't love"; but that
isn't right either way.

Yes, I remember the
little incidents you spoke
of. The violets down below
the pasture and the
braved flowers at the "Big
Hills". And I remember
the slippers, too. I have
the picture of you on the
porch rail with the kitten
and you look so big
and so close, just as if
I could just open my
arms and hold you close.



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(6)

Marie, some day you will
realize how unworthy I am,
then you will not care.

Will not you try
to be my friend, but
at the same time forget
your love for me?

I do not want to
forget my love for you
because it helps me
so much in so many ways.

And you also help
Mother and Dad so much,
and you don't suspect
how much they really
love you. In her last
letter, Mother writes,

"Marie has just gone.
She is a ray of sunshine
just now flashing in
and out, with her



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(7.)

cheery smile and "Hello,
how's everybody?"

It is such a perfect
picture of you as I would
want you to be always.

I would like to write about
Physical Culture but it
is "lights out" time now.

Forget all about
telegraphy - Please.

Well I must leave you
for this time.

Sincerely,

Forrest.

Please answer soon because
a lot of time will be lost
in having the letter forwarded
from here.



LEAVENWORTH,

MAY 22-18

11—30 PM

KANS.



Miss Ava Marie Shaw

389 Highland Avenue

Beloit, Wisconsin

U. S. A.