

Thursday Aug. 2, 1917

Dear Marie,

I got two letters from you and one from Blanche today. Lauretta is a good kid alright; I'm glad you like her. I wish I were there to play "Pilot Boys Dream" with you. I would probably ditch it all up but we sure had some good fun that way. I'll never forget the time we ate those cherries on the porch. Gee, but I'll be glad to get back to you again but I'm not sorry that I'm making these sacrifices. I only hope you won't change from the same big-little-girl that you were. Please write as often as you can, and keep your diary.

(2.)

I will do the best I can, but there are many little odd jobs to take care of after all the regular work & drill is done. We had an hour of wig-wag practise this morning and I talked with ~~a~~ an Iowa railroad telegrapher. The "wig-wag" is a method of talking in the field by means of flags. We always start up a conversation and tell about ourselves. This afternoon I practised with a railroad telegrapher from Wisconsin. In the morning we had an hour of drill at fancy marching. We also had two hours of drill at pitching shelter tents. This afternoon we had buzzer practise and our third

(2)

lecture on doing guard duty.
We have good officers here
and every thing is as good as
one could expect. I pity those
fellows that had to remain at
Jefferson Barracks several
weeks before being sent to
their ⁱⁿ regular post. I may be
transferred from here. This
noon the Sergeant told me to
report to the commanding
officer of the battalion. The
latter asked me a lot of technical
questions about lenses and cameras
and I know I answered them
correctly. He dismissed me without
dropping any hints so I don't
know how I'll come out. The
nearest first class aviation camp is
at Texas. There are going to
start one in Kansas City too.

(4.)

I hope I can see you before we leave. Maybe we can come out some way. My friend George Stock started his French under a French lady last night. I am going to start next Monday but am going to try a University professor. This is not required. I don't know what it will cost. The gouts. pays Sig. Corps men \$30 a month and a \$60 a year clothing allowance. We have to be careful and dress neatly and in clean clothes all the time. We have all of every ~~Saturday~~ Friday afternoon off to prepare for Saturday morning inspection. Believe me it's ticklish business to get by the

(5.)

inspection officers. One's hair has to be kept cut close but I am always going to keep mine that way, even when I get home. I only have to comb it about once a week when I used to do it at least three times a ~~week~~ day. Suppose I'll have to get acquainted all over again when you start wearing your hair done up and your heels upon spools. Mother gave you a straight tip about finger nails and will power. Did you notice how Lauretta bites hers. No you didn't. Believe me if no one does anything worse than that, he needn't worry about the end of the world. Did you and Lauretta go swimming? I told Mother to get the waterwings out for you.

(6)

Once more :

1. Always swim in the water.
2. Hold your breath until you learn to time your arms with your legs and keep afloat for a few strokes.
3. When you do breathe, always breathe out thru the nose and in through the mouth.
4. Be sure to time your breathing and every movement of your legs and arms. When this becomes instinctive (ouch) you can go to sleep on the job.
5. Take your time, and go easy.

(7)

Do you remember how I used to fuss about that? I sure do wish I could be with you. Each man had to ~~pass~~ swim a hundred yards in order to pass examination here. There are a few that will have to do some tall practising. Lot of them are 30 & 35 and never saw anything but a tub for 15 years.

I suppose the "sublies" will get us if we don't watch out, but we may not even have to cross over to France. Things to worry about. The most I've got to worry about is a little brown eyed girl. I left out the "big" this time. Gee I don't want you to be all grown up when I get back. But I don't care if you are if something else doesn't change.

Yours, Forrest.

You will find any
negatives you want in
my negative file-box.

Help yourself.

I wish I had printed
one of you in the canoe and
by the cherry tree.

Write soon. and talk to me as
if we were together. Please.



LEAVENWORTH,

AUG 2 -17

11-30 PM

KANS.



Miss Eva Marie Phaw
389 Highland Ave.
Beloit, Wis.

If not delivered in Ten days return to

Forrest W. Bassett
Co A 6th Field Bty.
S.C. Ft Leaven-
worth, Kans.

ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
(IN THE FIELD)

GENERAL OFFICE

124 EAST 28TH STREET, NEW YORK, U. S. A.