

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY

YOUNG MEN'S CRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"WITH THE COLORS"

1/4/18 1917

Rec. 60. 46. Block B 27

Camp Joseph E. Johnston

Jacksonville, Fla.

My Dearest: ~

Another day has come and passed and I am still in the state of Sunny Florida. I have done practically nothing this day. Have eaten two good meals and am about ready for the third now 5 P.M. and my days work is o'er. I have gone to the camp P.O. twice this day and brought mail for the company we have 183 in our company thus far. Quite a few letters and packages but I received none. I suppose Ft. Thomas has forgotten where we are at for the 47 men who came with me received none so I presume our mail still lies in the P.O. at Fort Thomas

Well, I shall jog the PM's
memory there and tell him that
we would appreciate our mail
very much. A letter from home
is equivalent to a good meal
and just as pleasing to us, a letter
from home is sufficient to drive
away the blues, "C." I never
have gotten the blues yet and
hope that I may not. I have tried
to content myself even tho
I am not at all times satisfied
I have spent about two hours
this day in drilling this how
ever I did no have to do, but
a [few] of us rather than sit
around went out and drilled
for the good that we would
get from it. The drills are
worth knowing and gives a person
knowledge of military value
not many of the L. M. [-Cory]
ever see any drills. We
have many L. M. Sergeants
here that never drilled an
hour of them service. I am
going to learn all I can

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL
ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
"WITH THE COLORS"

1917

and then no one will have
anything on me, "C" It is
easy to handle a [?] gun but
quite different with one which
is equipped with a 22 in barrel
Ha! Rather smart am I not?
Well I have to be witty some
times and I know u don't mind
me pulling of such stunts.

Talk about dinner, I had all
the Cold Roast Pork and mashed
potatoes, gravy, coffee with cream
and sugar and good bread that
I could eat. Have never tasted
milk or celery since I have
been here but plenty of other
good things all the same.

A boy from New Castle by
the name of Denver Lovett
sleeps by the side of me and
from his talk I rather be
lieve he does Love "it". No

chance now for him for as
we say. “No use to wish
for we’re in the Army now.”

He was well acquainted
with Bryant and they had
some times together. Bryant
come over last night and
they met, neither knowing
that the other was here. They
talked over the times they
had last summer and from
what I heard, I don’t think
they ever wanted for anything
that they never got. Lovett
is some jolly boy and he and
I are old Pals until we must
part. Vergil was to c me
last night but L.G. was
Room Orderly at his barracks
and had to stay there, so he
didn’t get to come.

Oh! Yes! I have an
assistant to help me carry the
Company’s mail, he is a
youngster from Chicago
and a nice fellow, but never
had an experience in

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL
ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
"WITH THE COLORS"

1917

handling mail but he will
learn I suppose. He will
understand easier than M.D.
at that I presume. Well I
seemed right at home in
sorting the many letters but
I am anxious to get my
special assignments Whatever
it may be and get stationed
permanently I intend to
qualify either as a clerk or
Bookkeeper and am sure I
can hold down either of these
but its not what u want
but what you get that interests
us most. Isn't that it? I feel
however that if given just
half a chance to show my
ability I shall make good and
get a suitable position.

Well anyhow I will
save half of my wages

while gone. A single man is paid half of his wages and the Government holds the balance. At the end of the war the Gov. pays over all the money that is due us and that has been held back with 4% interest on it. Men who have families or wives get $\frac{1}{2}$ of their wages and the other half is sent by the Gov. to their families. Thus u c half of a married man's wages is sure to fall into the hands of his wife and family. In case of the death of a single man the balance of his pay goes to his relatives. You C if I see army life for 10 years as a private I shall have \$1800 coming with interest. Ha! Ha I will be content with one year. I would probably be worth more dead than alive for then I would be worth \$10,000 but how would I spend

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL
ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
"WITH THE COLORS"

1917

it then? Yet if I can't some
one else can, "C" Yet if I
come back disabled in any
way I will receive \$58.00
every month for twenty years
and by that time my children
can support me. Can't they?
Ha! Ha! They can leave me
in Florida as long as they choose
for these sunny days and good
meals will make me fat. Ha!

Oh! Say I have been looking
a long time for your picture; One
with a smile and rosy cheeks.
As for my picture, I shall send
you one whenever I have an
opportunity to have one taken
I may have you send my
Kodak soon and then when
I leave here if I do I can
send it back "C" Conditions
here are much more

agreeable and more convenient to
keep it here than at Ft. Thomas
I presume I can find films
here somewhere and I will
take the risk anyway. Just
keep it for a few days and
I shall probably have you
send it and then I know u
will get a picture of the one
who is heart and soul for U

Tell George [S] that when
Summer or Spring days come
I said for him to teach you
how to run that Ford "C"

I think I shall go to the
Y.M.C.A. tonite and C a movie.
Don't cost anything but time and
I get plenty of sleep anyway
so why shouldn't I enjoy a movie?

Hoping this finds you in the
Ver-i- best of spirits and health
I am.

Your Dixie Soldier True

Wes

[?] and Love that words are
unable to express.

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL
ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
"WITH THE COLORS"

Last Page

1917

You will notice that my letters to you from now on will bear my return address at Sulphur Spring. Ind. and if at anytime it would be such that you were not there to receive them they are to be held until I instruct as to their disposal.

I want Fred and Milton to understand that if at anytime they cannot be delivered to you, they are to be held.

Something might happen to me or you and if I should have them returned here, no one would be here to receive them and again if you weren't there to receive them they might fall into the hands of your parents and their contents might create suspicion Do you see my point?

I am trying to play safety
first with protection to you.
I would always hate it is
I ever would say jokingly
anything in my letters which
if read by anyone else would
create suspicion as to you
or my character. If I were
there to defend you and uphold
you I would not care who
knew. Do you see? With such
love as exists believe us I
am directly interested in your wel-
fare. My letters are intended
for U and not the public. "C"

Hoping that you approve
of this and advising you
to always let your letters
bear your return address
I am as before

Your Sweetheart,

Wes

Miss Opal V. Baker

Sulfur Springs

Indiana

Henry County

From: Wes L. Bouslog

Sulphur Springs,

Indiana .

Henry County

11

NATIONAL

WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

“WITH THE COLORS”