

“WITH THE COLORS”      YMCA

Sunday Eve 1/6/18

Rec. Co. 46 B. 27

Camp Johnson

Jacksonville, Florida.

My only Valentine :~

    This date brings to me the oath which I gave the U.S. one month ago today, (Dec. 6) to protect and defend the U.S. against all enemies foreign and domestic and at the same time I swore that I would be just as true to u as to my country and I have now for one month been true to you as well as my country. It takes only twelve times as long to make a year and within the next year we are anticipating wonderful changes and results in this world's struggle for freedom and equality to all. We know that back home we are ever welcome, but we cannot

return to stay until our duty is done.

No one knows what sacrifices are being made from day to day, but in years to come we are hoping to be repaid and enjoy prosperity and happiness in exchange for our sacrifices. We are determined that our future will not be interrupted again by some monarch bent on the enslavement of mankind. When this war is over we will know that our parents, friends and loved ones are free from the brutish practices of an inhuman monarch and his followers.

Above all things now in order to bring this war to a quick termination, talk war and talk it with a grim determination to overcome our brutish adversary. Every word in favor of peace now is a thorn in the side of justice and humanity. This war will end only when Germany begs for peace and I feel sure that that is not far

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off. She has begun to realize that the U.S. and rest of the Allies are in grim earnest and intend to enforce the things which we are fighting for. She realizes that it is impossible to win against the world and that every day brings her nearer destruction. It is the common opinion that she will surprise all some day by expressing her willingness to accept the Allie's terms of peace in order that she may preserve the German nation from utter ruin. The point is much better to give up now than to fight to the finish and then be forced to give up and all the time knowing that to win is impossible. This is Germany's condition. Peace will come all the sooner if

everyone will aid in forcing Germany to beg for it. She deserves no pity and little she will get. The Allies are struggling for sacred rights and for the freedom of humanity until they are secure peace is not desired.

This is rather a war speech but you can understand the spirit and determination of the U.S. Army. Just uphold this spirit and you are in a way giving great aid.

Let your pity for the murderers of mankind turn to the bitterest hatred and we will take off our hats to all that do. Talk war and stand behind our Gov and when Germany understands that we are as solid as a rock behind our Gov.it will then be more alarmed than ever. You may want peace and of course we all do but do not create this impression. This is our spirit and with you all aiding us, we will conquer for ~~mi~~ right is might.

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Let every man and woman and child of the U. States cry war, war and the effect upon Germany would be tremendous. I have been giving you the opinion of our Commanders and in these we pin our faith and trust.

U can say that this is heaven to the place at Ft. Thomas. We are in civilization here. At Ft. Thomas as we were among [brutes.] Seldom do I hear black guarding or profanity here but U heard so much of it at Ft. Thomas that it became disgusting.

I think that I will be here many months and I have as many chances of being stationed in the U. States as I do in being stationed abroad. I still believe that we boys exercised good judgement in enlisting. Besides enjoying

all the liberties of the Drafted men  
we also can pride ourself as being  
a volunteer, yet that is no dis-  
credit to any drafted man and  
they should have the same  
respect. There should be no favors  
shown either one, but it is an evi-  
dent fact that men in drafted camps  
enjoy greater and wider liberties  
than those of the Regular camps.  
Our liberties here are many more  
than those given at Ft. Thomas.  
An enlisted man here wears  
two buttons one with a U.S. on  
it. The drafted men wear only  
the N.A. button. That is the only  
way of distinguishing one from the  
other. Well ennuf of that war stuff.

L.G., Vergil, Bryant  
and I all tooked a look [over]  
the camp this afternoon.

I heard many things that  
made me think of April days.

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in Old Indiana, I heard the birds croaking, the frogs twittering, and saw a few Creole Maidens. Ha!

Indiana is a very popular song here. It is now being sung at the Y.M.C.A.

How have you spent this day? Hugging the fire, I suppose it rained here all forenoon, but the sun has shone brightly all this P.M.

My cough and cold is slowly improving I was able to find a box of Vick's salve today and will use some of it tonite. Eight of the 48 who came in my bunch are in the hospital, all with severe bad colds, due to the exposure on the train, but as long as I can eat three good meals a day, you know then that I am doing fine If I ever get shut of this cold, there

is no reason why I should have another while here.

Not a bit of mail since I left Ft. Thomas. P.M. There has never forwarded it. By the time you get this I shall be getting mail direct from you. Life to me is very dull without news from you. Now nine days since I received a letter from you. I know dear it is no fault of yours for they are on their way somewhere. How is everyone? Has Jesse arrived home yet?

My inoculations were O.K. by Lieutenant here and will not be compelled to take them again. Many of the boys who missed their 3<sup>d</sup>/ one will have to take all three over. How is Oletha acting now? Is she still believing that U and I are still deceitful? How is the Pool Room Professor and his daughter? I read in the Courier that you had a wonderful show in town Xmas week. Wonderful! Eh!

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After this I will shorten my letters by leaving off my address. Send my letters to the one given until a new address appears on my letters to you. See! While I am writing this address each time I shall use that time in making love to U. If my letters are too short just say so and I will have the other boys to help me out for I tell u almost everything that happens. Often times I think that if the Y.M.C.A. didn't furnish stationary I would spend my wages in buying it. Don't worry as long as there is ink or pen and paper u are going to receive letters. I love to scribble, especially to U and scribble not for past time but because of the love I bear to you and for the pleasure and comfort that it gives me.

    If I were home tonite would I be compelled to salute the flag?  
Ha! Or would I have the honor

of wrapping the Red (white and blue) about the flag-staff? Ha! Oh! Am I not dramatic? If not then I must be nutty. “C”, Do you catch the point? You must not forget to be patriotic at least once a month. I found the enclosed ticket on the train down here and when it reaches you it will have traveled 2000 miles that I know of. Just keep it as a curiosity.

I must close or 3 cts won't carry this letter so with a Ray of Love 1000 miles long which travels with this letter I am as ever

Your Florida Lover

Wes

P.S. [U]<sup>3</sup> S.W.A.K.'s by the barrel and 99 squeezes.

Tell every one I said “Hullo” and a “Merry Winter to all.”