

(this is some paper but all
that I could buy in camp)

January 30, 1918

Wednesday

Camp Joseph E. Johnston

Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Valentine:-

And another beautiful day has come and gone and I am still in the Sunny South. Did you ever know of the time when I didn't have anything to say? Ever day of this life is almost the same thing over and over so to tell you what happened today would only be repeating things which I have told in other letters. Perhaps when changed about again I can then tell you of the new surroundings. Can say at least that I am O.K. and that the bright sunshine is not having any bad effect on me, yet some mope around as if they had the Spring fever. I have been awakening at about 4³⁰ every morn and get up and dress and am washed and ready for breakfast by 5 A.M. First call for getting up is at 5⁴⁵ any only one call, if you are not dressed and in line by 15 minutes you get some kind of fatigue duty for three or four days. Well though I usually arise an hour earlier than necessary I always dress in a hurry the same as if I didn't arise until first bugle call. Thus I keep in practice and can easily be in full dress in 10 minutes. "C" This is fives minutes less than allowed. Of course uniforms take much more time than civilian clothes. First comes the shirt and then the trousers whose legs lace as a shoe would and of course leggins cover the laced portions at the bottom of the trouser legs. Then there are the shows which are always to lace and then comes the coat or blouse and hat. Then the last thing is to see if every button is fastened. The use no "beauty pins" in the Army. Ha! No danger of a person in uniform doing any harm for he has strict orders to always keep all buttons fastened. Ha! U C U would be safe with me even in uniform. Even our shirts have a flap and button over each pocket.

It is a beautiful sight of a morning when about 40 boys roll out of bed, some are stark naked and almost all all ways imaginable. One of those on

our floor is some wonder Twice [illegible] wouldn't hardly express his condition! Ha! Yet the boys very seldom indulge in vulgar language as you would imagine. Their topics of conversation are far much cleaner than those discussed around pool rooms and public loafing places.

I supposed they know it is useless to talk about the Girls for they know that it is ~~useless~~ will do no good for as the saying is, "We are in the Army now." Well today our company received orders to drill on the Military Grounds if we desired to until this time this ground had been reserved for the artillery only. Well we drilled there this P.M. and it is sure some place. It is as level as a floor and we can now enjoy the music of the Camp Johnston Military Band while drilling as it plays there doing drill hours. The music certainly puts some "pep" into a person. Of course only such selections are played as those that we may march and keep step to. Our company made a good showing among the many on the drill-grounds. It surely is a lively bunch and some sight with music and when all of these companies are in action. I saw Bryant during the noon hour and he is now attending school and getting instructions concerning motors and how to take care of them. It is quite easy for him as he already knows most of what they are teaching, but he says the ones with no experience have to study their lessons for if they don't get what is assigned they sure get h-. Got a letter from Fred L. today and he begged me not to tell U what he had said. He ought to have requested that in the other letter and then U wouldn't have had occasion to have lost your temper. Ha! Well it is hard to say where I shall land. They say that have ~~more than~~ 4000 clerks more than that need here. You see I might be one of the 4000 that would be assigned to something else. There are many branches of the Q.M.C. that are not filled such as Electricians, Carpenters, mechanics, chaffuers and a dozen other. I might be transferred to one of these. "C." Well let it be what it ma, I will have nor kick coming. We are here to give the Kaiser H- and as anything is honorable in the Army I shall do whatever U. Sam says There is also a rumor that the Q.M.C. here will be moved to California within six weeks. If that be true and I am still here there is a chance for me to see California. Well I have thought of something to say after all so with luck to you, I am still longing for you.

Yours,

[illegible] is enuf this time (must be economical

and so win the war) Ha!

WES

S.W.A.K.

YMCA

“WITH THE COLORS”

Miss Opal Valentine Baker,

Sulphur Springs

Henry County Indiana

From
Wes L. Bouslog
Camp Joseph E Johnston
Jacksonville,
Florida