

Monday 2/11/18

Camp Joseph E. Johnston

Jacksonville, Fla.

Dearest Valentine:-

Have spent the evening in reading letters, post cards and the life. 2 letters from you, all those post cards from U and one from Dalta, a letter from Mr. O' Brien and one from Horace Thompson. I certainly have passed several pleasant minutes this evening. Glad to hear that it is warmer in Old Ind.

Say, I would answer you card for card if it were possible to get them in camp. As it is I can only say, "Thank you for the remembrance" and that I will answer by letter.

The boys are all very busy reading Pres. Wilson's Speech

to Congress. They all say it is a very clever move and will probably bring results. I read it and it strikes to the heart. If Germany cannot now see that American is fair just and desirous of settling the matter with justice to the world, then our aim is more a concerted effort to bring the Kaiser to his knees. The boys are also very much interested in the peace treaty between Russia + Germany. This treaty means hundreds of thousand of prisoners freed which Russia has held ~~and~~ turned loose to fight against us but we are in the right and so let it be as it may right is might in the end.

Well, if you know how heavy I am I can say that I weigh just the same as

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the days I left. I swung a  
mattock for four solid  
hours this P.M. Our company  
was detailed to dig up the  
parade grounds and cut  
out all the roots, etc so that  
sprouts would not shoot up.  
It was amusing to see the  
city chaps trying to use them  
but it was easy for me. I  
had had experience before,  
“C”, my weight is now 15 [illegible]  
Can you imagine how heavy  
that is. Ha!

Well Tell Jim I send her my  
sympathy for I myself have  
endured the suffering of tooth  
ache.

L.G. was just here and  
told me about Oletha. He also

said your mother was  
confined to her bed be-  
cause of sickness. Well  
these are surely troublesome  
times for all as it seems as  
tho' we are all doomed to  
suffer. My best wishes for  
your mother's speedy recovery.

I know that the last few  
months has been an awful  
strain upon her, but I trust  
she may spend just as  
many happy days as the  
unhappy ones she has passed  
thru'

Tell Hugh I dreamed the he  
was looking bad and that  
he should be more moderate  
Well I am going to send  
you a picture within the  
next 30 days and you may  
see for yourself that I am  
yet mustache-less.

Well, Opal, I think L.G.  
considers Oletha's course as

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it did.

Received the Indianapolis news today and read some of it. We get the papers here everyday. The "Florida Times Union" in the morning and "The Florida Metropolis" in the eve  
The Camp is always alive with newsboys who come right into our barracks. Well I spend six cents a day for papers, 3 for morning paper and 3 for evening. I scarcely read more than the headlines. Newspapers from Old Ind. are very pleasing and enjoyed. I generally give them to Bryant or L.G. when I finish reading them so in this way the pass thro' other's

hands who enjoy them

the same as I,

In speaking of the respect and interest people have for a soldier I know that many think us as much less than human but if it wasn't for us, they would get down on their knees and say to the Kaiser. "Dear Kaiser Wilhelmn, we accept thee as our idol in preference to Christ."

It takes just such things as the loss of many on the Tuscania to bring them to realize this this war is at their very doors and that even the loss of a soldier is to their disadvantage and future peace. Well it had a very decided affect on our company and I presume it affected the armed forces thru out the U.S. just the same way. Where hatred

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now is prevalent among all.

All the boys are O.K.

Well I must close and

write a short letter to Dalta.

I should be ashamed that

I have not remembered her

in any of my letters for I

can but admit that I surely

as a friend desire to C her

happy and I know how

she has suffered in the

past months and has borne

it in a very commendable way

I am sure.

With love unspoken

I am

2/U/as B/4

Your forever, I wont

Wes be naughty

Swak tonight and

will leave off the

[illegible]

YMCA

“WITH THE COLORS”

Miss Opal Valentine Baker,

Sulphur Springs,

Indiana

Henry County