

Thursday 2/14/18

Camp Joseph E. Johnston

Jacksonville, Fla. Q.M.C.

To the Valentine of my heart:-

As I think of the above
date it recalls to me the birthday
of St. Valentine and again it calls
to mind the natal-day of a

Real Valentine a real

live one and it is to this

Valentine that my eyes have
looked forward to now for al-
most a year. I only can wonder
what another year may bring!

You shall then have seen your
18th birthday and no doubt

I shall have had many more
experiences by that time. Toda

U are "Sweet Seventeen." Had

U ever thot of that? Just

as sweet this day as when

Sixteen and of course much

sweeter in mine eye.

Bryant just came in and
had received a letter from
mother and father, so I stopped
long enuf to read it and the
news was very pleasing.

What have you done this
day? If I were there this eve
I would sure offer you a real
birthday present. Ha! [illegible] and more
too if thou woudst like it.

I just wonder if U would!

I have plenty of energy for
most any thing. Ha!

This is what I do about
every day. 5 Q' arise and
dress Wash 6¹⁵ Reville –
6¹⁵ to 7⁰⁰ about a two or 3
mi. hike 7⁰⁰ Breakfast
7⁴⁵ Call for drill and drill
until 9³⁰ from 10 to 11
another long hike and
at 12 mess. 1 to 3 drilling

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and the rest of the day
we may have to clean our
barracks clothes or something
similar, now don't you say
I am a very busy boy?
6 P.M. is Supper and from
then on we generally have a
lecture or something else to
attend which takes up our time

I have a new nickname,
Indiana, the other boys go
by the name of Ohio, New
York or whatever state he may
be from. They all must
admit that the Old Hoosier
State is always foremost in
furnishing her share of the
soldiers for the Union.

One of the boys just came
in from taking a bath. He
is now standing with his
back toward me. In his
nakedness he has a form
like a girl and some form
at that too. He is from Chicago

 We have in our barracks
2 Jews, 1 Irish, 1 Scotch, 1
Russian Jew and the rest
are Red blooded Americans
The Jews are not very
much in favor and do not
mix or joke much with the
boys. The Irishman is
a scream and has only
been in this country for
two years. He says that
Crossing the Ocean is not
at all bad.

 Just after the lights go
out at night the boys

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begin their pranks. 10 oclocks
however stops it all for when
Taps blow everything is quiet
Here are the states as rep-
resented in our barracks
Indiana, Georgia, Florida,
California, Missouri, Illinois
Ohio, New York, Mass, Conn,
Michigan, Pennsylvania, N. Jersey,
Tenn, Oregon, Louisiana, Nebraska
Maine, Kentucky and Colorado

One of the boys just
passed some candy around
no matter what it may be
they always share it with
their comrades.

For a man who had no
relatives, friends or home
the army would be a very
pleasant place, but for

one who has enjoyed all
this, the Army isn't so
grand but believe me. We
will make the best of it.

Have you yet received
the pin and pennant that
I sent you?

Next time I go to
Jacksonville I will get you
a present ~~wich~~ ~~will~~ which
will be a souvenir worth
the While. It is a patriotic
pillow case. I saw one of the
boys bring one back to camp
and it sure is a beauty. It
is the prettiest souvenir I
have yet seen.

With good cheer and hops
that this birthday has been a
happy one and hoping that I
may be back in Old Ind. on your
next. I am,

Yours as ever B/4

Wes

(Would like to be
near and love U on
your birthday.

Imaginative [illegible] for a birthday present
or as many as U like.

YMCA

“WITH THE COLORS”

Miss Opal Valentine Baker,

Sulphur Springs,

Indiana

Henry County