



"WITH THE COLORS"



Mrs L & Bates,
Elsie,
Mich.



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"WITH THE COLORS"



Wed. night ^{Have not had time}
^{to read this}
^{over.}

My dear Parents:

Sept 16

How much I want to write
and how much there is to say and
how short the time that remains.

We work night and day. Not a spare moment
now. I cannot write to Bion and cannot
write but a note to you, now. I'll telegraph
you as soon as I know for sure where
I am going for detention. We turn our
hawaiian summer clothes in Friday this week
and then we get right into our overseas
cloths. Saturday is the last meal we
are supposed to have here. If you get this
and have important news to tell me, I'll telegraph
me. I think we are going to camp. Mills Nife.
But am not certain. We will sail within
two weeks if we leave here Sunday,

Working here all the time. By the way it is
going to cost me a small farm for the things
stolen from me. If you send any mail
to me any where put your return address
on it. It will get to me in time, even

through I cross the sea. Tell all the Boys

that if I pass my exam. Ill be waiting for them all over there

Just got back from a lecture given by the colonel. He talked to us about character about dangers of vice and wine of France and his last words were, dont disgrace the folks back home. God knows Ill die first.

He told us he wasnt positive but thought we would go via N.Y. and as many as possible would be granted passes in New York. At that time rather than take on the rights

Ill write to you. We will sure be gone from here within the next few days. Dear Parents.

maybe this letter is short and maybe there seems to be nothing in it. But never

there is more love more desire to serve and die if need be for you than you have ever seen in me. and in order to do my

bit and go over prepared I must work. a minute means hours over there. We are

going to Southern France. for a three months camp and training. We will sail

----- ?? soon. It is beginning to get to that place when the censor will censor. But we go to camp mills



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"WITH THE COLORS"



we dont know when we sail. I know
where we land but cant say, at least it is
so whispered to me. Guess the fellow wasnt any
to cure himself. But the Colonel told us the
rest. Now dear People I shall write once a
week to you from over there at least and after
if - possible. I dont know the laws yet.

We are requested to tell our people again
our number 2689 532. Dont forget.

Tell my friends all I am still alive and
looking as usual. Wish you were in N.Y.
I would see you. But dear parents it was
the greatest goodend that I have had since I
can remember. when you set foot in Camp.

Eustis. Some how god knows best and directs
your people know that you have made
my heart glad and god help me to prove
worthy. My time has come to be a man.

My time has come to show the world what
I have in me. My time has come to pay my
debt to my parents and so help me god I am
ready. I have no yellow streak. I admit
there are hard things for me to bear.

But I have the brass & hape.

I fear no Submarine I fear not the cannon nor the shell All I fear is being a prisoner in German camp. But I'll be a dead man before they get me if I can make it possible

Have no fears dear ones. I am well, Strong, and wouldn't change shoes with any clucker in crissendom.

We have our equipment and have a little more to be issued to us. Then it's on New York the shirt in the back and in other places. and then it's the brine. Let's be cheerful. It's but a step. It's hard but there is a loving hand that understands who will watch between thee & me. It will be hard at home Harold knows But. I am coming back and you shall never no never regret.

Remember that in the depth of my heart is a love for my parents my family that some have not found. But it's there and I am about ready to make my debt. If I should happen not to return. Well we won't make any plans. Your pictures I shall carry nearest my heart and they shall comfort me. The words which you have spoken to me. Father & mother I'll never forget and I trust



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"WITH THE COLORS"



You people have your Thanksgiving. Perhaps
Bye that time this war will be nearing an end
I shall think of you and if you just can
it is my wish that you have home coming
Thanksgiving. In all your Birthdays wish
your many returns of the days and may we
all live to have a more enjoyable one at
home in dear old Elsie. When the war is over
over there. Ruth stick to the College. They will
need you here some day, mark me. I hope that
while I'll be over there and all I hope the
other Brothers went home to get. I'll be wanting
for them but not in the sense that it might
sound. If you write me in N.Y. Send me
Stamps.

Give Nora a picture of me if any are good
in Leon's Camera. I didn't dare to take much
here. For there is a law against it here.

Tell Leon his young man he wants to know
about lines in Ga. His Post office is Halland
Ga. and he lives 65 miles from there.
He tells great hunting stories.

Well I have no jokes to speak of. But
I am feeling well and happy.

Well good night will write again soon.
I cant write much to nora I do think of her
but cant do it Ill drop her a line so you
need not bother to tell her anything this time.

Your Loving Son
Harold.

Oh I go all bring
back the carcass
of a hum.
Rec'd three papers
today