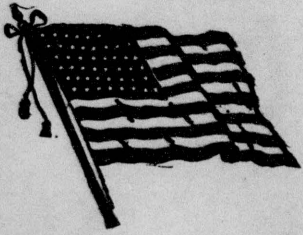


WAR WORK COUNCIL



Army and Navy
Young Men's Christian Association



"With the Colors"

Prison Camps. 19..

My Precious Wife.

Oh Gretchen Darling I don't feel like writing to you the letter I should be writing to you, but I will do the best I can.

I feel so blue, and discouraged that I can not write you a solitary thing that would interest you in the least.

Be sure and write in every letter just how you are feeling, and it just about your sick time is it not. You know by this time Sweetheart to get the hot foot baths ready in time and if necessary the fello.

I will just have to stop phoning to you so much for our phone bill was 2.50, and to think how bad you need the money too, but I will see to it that it won't be so much next time, for I know it is all my own fault.

I'll bet you are just working your self sick over there, how I wish I could see my little Gretchen, and I want you so bad that I can't do any thing over here but just think of you. I don't think it is fair, the band got back their permant passes this morning, but we can't even get a special pass. Oh sweetheart if I ever got out of this awful place they will never get me again I am sure of that.

I feel much like I did those first few days when I came here and did not know when I would get to see you. It was awful. It seems that I must love you to find you, for oh dear girl the love that surges in my heart at these times is too great to hold and I just can't go much longer without you. I have just one consolation in thinking it all must be for some good and after all it will all come out right in the end.

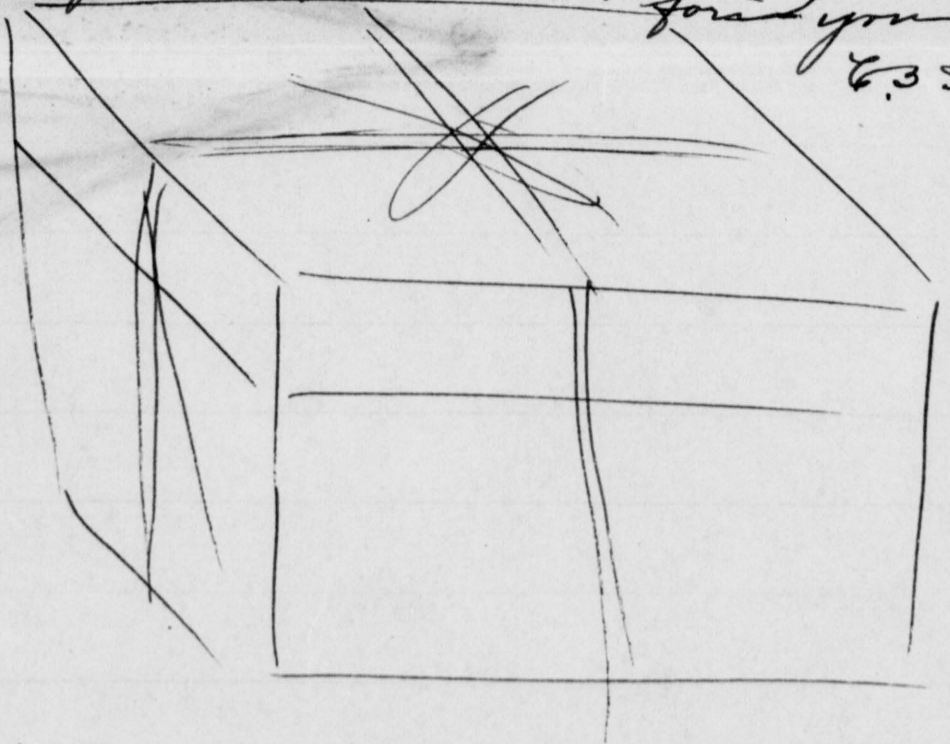
You know I told you over the phone that I was afraid I had what Aunt has, and it kept getting larger and spreading over my whole body, so I got alarmed

and went up to ask the doctor what it was, and he said oh that is not anything serious. Said probably I had been roaming over the island and got into some poison oak for that was what I had, and he gave me some dope to ~~put~~^{put} on me, and it is much better today. How is the pain you were complaining about in your chest? Please Sweetheart keep me informed just how you feel at all times, will you darling. Oh Gretchen I do want you so this morning, just to see your eyes, and to hold you in my arms, to hug and kiss you. Do you really

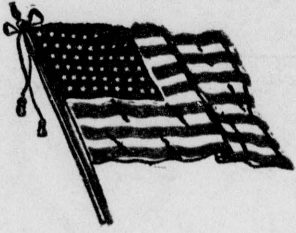
miss me like your letter says.
 I hope so much that you do.
 If we will be patient a few
 more days the month will
 hurry and go by and then I
 will come to my dear girl,
 who I love better than this
 whole whole world.

Your heartick husband,
Geo B Swape.

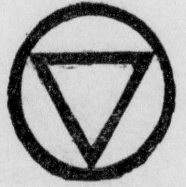
Just a package of kisses.
 for you.
 G.B.S.



WAR WORK COUNCIL



Army and Navy
Young Men's Christian Association



"With the Colors"

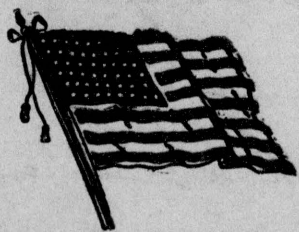
Prison Camp.

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My dear darling Wife:

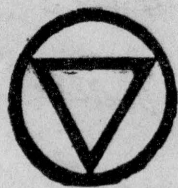
Don't you think that an appropriate name for this old place over here. Your dear good letter came this morning and I have been trying to get time to write a few lines to you before this, but this is Saturday, and as you know by this time that is the day we have to be ready to be inspected by the Captain. I showed him my shoes and he told me I could turn them in and get a new pair. I will get them next Thursday. Tonight I will
over.

Have to pday for the movies.
 So please excuse a short letter,
 but it is as full of love to
 you Gretchen as it will be short.
 I wish I could tell you how
 I miss you, and how I love
 you dear girl. You speak in
 the first of your letter that the
 days are fast passing, and you
 hope to some crisis. Well
 dear any crisis but being seperated
 further away. But I feel that
 we should be prepared for such
 move, because you can hardly
 tell from one day to the next
 what move will be made to
 seperate us. For U.S. is determined
 to get as many men in France
 at the earliest possible time.
 I am preparing a little code
 for us to write in secret.



Army and Navy
Young Men's Christian Association

"With the Colors"



3.

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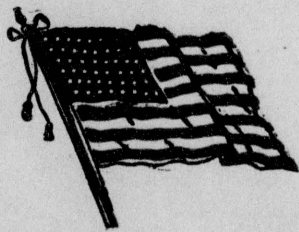
I think we should have several ways in case one failed we would still have something to go by. I will show you what I have fixed when I come over, and it would be a very good idea for us to use it some to make ~~our self~~ ourselves familiar with it.

How are you Sweetheart tonight, ~~have~~ have you been thinking of me any today? I have you. Oh so much, and so often, and wondered what you were doing, I how I would like to be helping you what ever it is.

F

How is Aunt? Is she getting better? And is she still cross and hard to please. Oh Gretchen how I want to come over and soothe your poor aching heart, and cool your little golden head in my arms. I am so glad to know I can help someone in this world in a small measure, to repay you for the wonderful love and faith you have in me. Oh my dear wife I love you so much and I hate to see you suffer because someone is unkind to to you, but don't you worry that dear little heart of yours any more than you can help and I will come over the first moment I can, and then every thing will be all right I know.

WAR WORK COUNCIL



Army and Navy
Young Men's Christian Association

"With the Colors"



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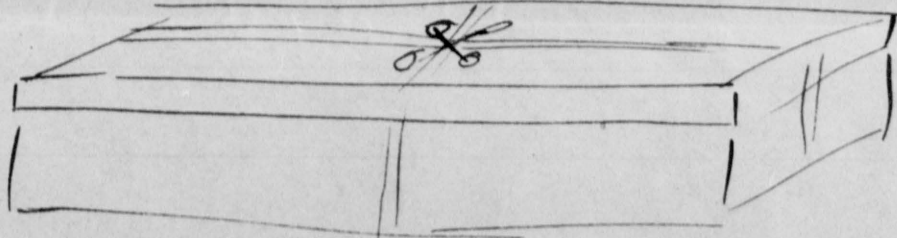
19

The mail is late tonight and I just have time to go out and look it up and get to the show on time.

Oh yes Sweetheart I received the prints to day and thanks for sending. Now dear darling girl please do not worry and I will come to you as soon as I can.

Your faithful husband.
Charles.

(more kisses + love!)



Defenders Recreation Club

WAR CAMP
COMMUNITY
SERVICE



FOR ALL
MEN IN THE
SERVICE

13TH AND HARRISON STREETS

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Second Edition.

Darling while awaiting
for the picture to be made
there was a commotion out
side, and upon looking
down the street saw where
a street car had hit a
auto with a woman in it.
when they picked her up
she was under the machine.
she was unconscious and
covered with blood. Oh
Darling do be careful while
you are around the busy
streets. I should go crazy
if anything should ~~go~~.

Happen to my darling Girl.

I am ever yours

Handwriting on the reverse side of the page, appearing as bleed-through from the front. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.

me.

This morning we had orchestra rehearsal, as usual, and also concert at the same old time. But when it came time to go down for guard-mount

This letter I started and had to stop for some reason, so will write you a new letter.



WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"With the Colors"



Fort Mc Dowell, 191

Angel Island.

My Own Precious Darling Wife:

You have been constantly in my thoughts since I last saw you. And you know without me telling you, how much I have missed you.

We have had quite a little excitement since last Thursday. There was a rumor that there was to be an examination for over sea service, and every body was worked up to a very high pitch of excitement. We had the examination yesterday, but it was nothing more than regular monthly inspections, but I will tell you about it when I come over tomorrow.

Time for rehearsal so will write more when concert is over.



WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"With the Colors"



Fort McDevell, 191

-after breakfast-

Dearest Wife & Sweetheart :-

I feel so sorry I did not keep ~~keep~~ my word Sunday and go to church, if we had gone it would have been a perfect day.

Now we received an order yesterday that no recruits can have a pass until June 7. It must be a punishment for not going to church and besides I deserve it. But darling Gretchen I must see you before that time, for I will go and ask the Captain for one. Married men have an advantage, so don't despair until we know for sure.

Today we go to the West Side, and this afternoon I will finish some prints, and practice. But most all I



WAR WORK COUNCIL

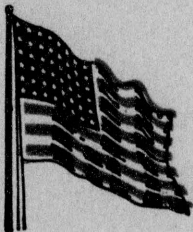
ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"With the Colors"



I have done since my returned ¹⁹¹
to the island, is to reflect on
the ecstasies of my last short
stay with you. Oh what a
wonderful pleasure, what a
grand time, and oh how happy
I have been, and just one thing,
just one little dark cloud to
hide the sunshine for a few
moments, and I will I
will never be guilty of making
either of us mar Gods day
another time. Will you
forgive me dear Gretchen? I know
you do dear Girl before I
ask, but it makes me sad to
think I was so weak, when
I felt so strong in my
convictions.

Yesterday while speaking
about getting some money that
I needed, Shortie overheard me
and pretty soon returned and
slipped a dollar in my hand



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS



"With the Colors"

which I am sending you ¹⁹¹
special delivery.

Excuse this short letter
and I will write more tonight.

Your faithful husband,
Wm. D. Brown

Kisses a million.



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



Dearest Sweetheart,

Just a few lines in
haste. Hughes sent a letter
to the officers here, and I
was called to the Adjutant.
Tell Herbert I told them
that he had charge of the
things taken from the
house.

Another thing he told
them that I had been furnishing
the family with provisions.
Remember ~~it~~ everything I
brought over was to you
as I intended it should be.
Tell Katherine because they
may say something to
some of you about it.
Don't worry because I did
not get in trouble about
it like he thought he



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



would do,
Write to me soon
Sweetheart
Your lover.



WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"With the Colors"



191

My Own Beautiful Wife.

Getchum Darling I have only a very few minutes but will write you a few lines in the few minutes I have left before the mail closes.

We played at West Side this morning, and I walked back instead of taking the boat so I could get a short note to you. I am room orderly or I would have written to you this morning early. And I would have more time now but I had to build another fire for these "birds" that have nothing else to do but loaf around.

What do you think Sweetheart I got a letter from you last night. How did it

come so very quick. It was just grand too.

Yes Dear I got my dog chain, I picked it up about the last thing.

Wretched Girlie I knew you would find it just like you say it is in your letter when that old "cat" came back. Put up with it Sweetheart until I come over Thursday.

Are you taking your treatment? Don't forget that a heavy physic and hot baths are the most beneficial.

You don't know how much I have missed you since I left you Sunday but I have been very, very, busy and the time is going pretty fast; only two more days.

Last night I had to play for one of those terrible bloody fights. Then after that I finished a film by developing at the G. I came out the best of any I have made yet and there should be some money in it. I must close

Darling and Post this so
you will be sure to get it
tomorrow.

You are all I have in
this World I stretch Dear,
your "all yours" husband,
Charles Byron.

Millions of kisses.



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



Fort McDowell,
Oakland, 20 1918.

My Wonderful Wife:

Your letter came to me while we were playing concert. I could hardly wait until it was over to read it.

It was such a loving letter, full of sympathy and kind words to your D.mittant. I am so glad you are feeling better than you did yesterday. That is the main thing Darling is to keep well and strong, and be sure to do everything you can to keep in the very best of health. Worry will be your worst enemy, so don't let any of our little difficulties and troubles bother you — just keep before your sweet mind

our darling babe, and our beautiful home that is sure to come very soon. Don't let for one moment my Lucy shut up here worry you. I know full well how handsome you are without me, but I am all right — and you know I miss you oh so very much too, but I am trying to keep Lucy on our future! And that is what you want to do, make baby clothes, and think beautiful thoughts of our loved one. Remember Darling do everything to keep yourself in top-top condition physical, and very happy mentally.

Do not worry about the rent business for I know Katherine is on your side, and has a real mother's ~~for~~ love for you. I am going to write her a short note, and after

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unless you have some objection.

reading please hand it to her but some time when she can read it, unobserved. That is all I can do while I am tied up here and then I shall have a talk with Herbert personally. I can hardly conceive of a person taking advantage of a stranger let alone his wife's own sister. I asked you not to make a further payment until you sent me what you owed them, that is in detail. You can make sure I shall not permit him to take advantage of you while I am this close to you. It is outrageous to think you are going to pay one cent of the rent. And to think he even wanted more than that villain Hughes.

My Darling I have not written to the folks for some

time, but shall do so today.
Do not tell them about the
disagreeable side of it for
it would do no good.

Precious Wife I love you
as surely you know, and I
am very happy to know
you love and trust in
little me. Say Dear, just
a little earlier to the end
of your letter. Dont sign
by saying "from your old Wife"
or any other ^{my} complimentary
names. Recognize your
real value and pride
self and you will feel a
greater pride in your self
for it. I am to the end,
your devoted
husband

Herbs,

The Auntie Queen full of her
love to you.



WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

"With the Colors"



Fort McDowell, 1917

My Darling Gretchen;

The mail came this morning and handed to me at the West side. I received your good letter, also one from Katherine. I think it is the first time she has written to me and it sure ^{was} a nice letter. I will inclose it in this letter so you can read it, for it is for you too.

I am writing to you at the Y.M.C.A. at the West side. It is just a big tent, and the wind is shaking it so I can hardly write. I can only write a few words for I think the boat will be along in a few minutes, so you will understand why so short. Your letter sure was not very long, but you probably did not have much time Monday morning to

write to me. ^v

Did you have any success in finding a house? Katherine wants you to be sure and arrange to stay with her she says in her letter, and thanks you and her would be good falls. I think you would be too.

I am glad you got to go to church Sunday - it seems that every time that I have come over I have found some excuse to keep us away, but perhaps some day I shall be better; anyway I went to church Sunday too, such as it was. Of course I didn't hear any great music or a regular sermon, but we had regular church services in the Y.M.

I have changed my mind about sending you Katherine's letter for I shall answer it tonight and mail it to you tomorrow. Her letter was mostly about the baby, and was very mother like. She is sure happy with her little tot. She mentioned

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about how good you and I
have been to her Lubby, also
his neglect in writing to
her. When I write to her I
shall tell her how often you
write or rather how often we
hear from each other.

You mention in your letter
that you was disappointed in
me not bringing you a pass
Sunday, but you have
probably forgotten mentioning
the time you would get home
&c. You never will forget those
first few times when you
came over here, and I don't
blame you for not wanting to
come to this horrid place.
But if you really cared to be
with me Sunday any length
of time it seems like you
could at least seemed anxious
to be with me in Frisco, for
you know it is such a short
time to be with you when
I have to come over to the
house. And you have never
yet suggested coming to meet
me, so that we could be together

a little longer, I have always had to ask in such a way that I felt that I had to urge you to come. But I made up my mind Saturday that I would never ask you again to come either to the island or Frisco, for I don't mind to come to Oakland to see you, it is just that I have so little time to be with you, for you know that I have never missed a chance to come to you, unless it was Sunday, and I think you know why I did not come then.

I can hardly wait until Thursday to come as I shall ^{look} to it as the days of days, and I will try to be waiting for you in front of the store when you come out, and then we can go any place, or do any thing you shall like to do.

You know very well sweetheart that you do not have to ask me what you do with our money as it is just as much yours as it is mine.

Well Sweetheart the boat is
coming to take us back to
Camp so will stop writing
for this time. Please write
to me as often as you can
find the time, because it
is my only pleasure over here.

You are constantly in
my thoughts and I want
you very very much.

Always your loving husband
Charles Benson

To me and some times
more is fair, but I really
love you, and I just think
if you feel half as bad as
I have to feel so many
times at not getting a letter
from you, that I will
make you feel just as
happy as I can by writing
often.

Goodnight Darling and
God bless my wife that I
love as very much.

Your husband
Perlu.

right in front of me.

I have not asked if they have my permanent pass yet, as I don't think I shall need it before Thursday, as the chances for getting the water boat are very slim. I shall just try to keep busy and work hard, and be contented with seeing you, once a week. You will look forward to that evening won't you Sweetheart? You can always reserve that night because I am always sure of getting away now.

I have collected \$10.00 for our bank fund which I will bring over Thursday. I think this month will total up pretty good don't you? My government pay this month will be \$9.30 instead of \$3.30 and the movies will bring in about 14 or 15 dollars. So I think by saving just a little I can equal your 30 dollars and both of us together add another 60 dollars to our

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bank roll, which will stand
me very close to the \$300.00
mark.

See but I would love
to see you tonight Ketchum.
Some way you run farther
away from me than ever,
since I have changed over
to permanent party — I don't
know what it is, I guess it
must be because I can not
be with you so often, and I
am so very homesome for
my precious wife tonight.
You can't imagine how bad
I want you dear. Some-
way over here there is that
feeling of being confined
here that keeps digging in
your heart all the time, and
makes you feel so oppressed.
But I know most of it is
caused by being kept so away
from you.

I am going to think
of our farm now in earnest,
and see if by reading, if
I can't prepare myself in

some measure to take up
the work when I get out
of this terrible situation.

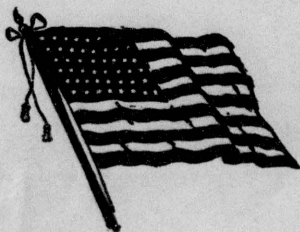
What are you doing
darling this evening? As it
is now about 6⁰⁰ you are
just getting home from ~~the~~
the store, ready for a good
supper. I wish I might
eat with you - would it that
be nice Gretchen. As I sat
down to supper tonight, how
much better the same things
would taste if you ~~were~~
was with me or I with
you to help eat them. It
make things better to me
any way, and I remember
out at National C, some things
that probably were not
cooked as good as we have
ate before, tasted just
wonderful, simply because
my Gretchen made them.
Oh dear Gerki! to have those
happy days once again and
for always

I am going to stop writing
 dear for tonight. Remember
 that I am thinking of you
 and love you every minute,
 although some times you
 think me false, and
 unloving - and I admit
 it looks that way to you,
 for often I am fierce and
 mean and unconsiderate,
 but Oh Gretchen Dear I do
 love you.

Your own dear husband,
 Felix.

Many, many kisses for you.
 tonight.

WAR WORK COUNCIL



**Army and Navy
Young Men's Christian Association**



"With the Colors"

Fort M^c Dowell, 19

Feb. 26 1918

I guess you will say you are
capable of taking care of your
own money.

Several of the boys can
go to town today on various
excuses, and it makes me
want to go all the more.

Well Sweetheart I must
close and get this in the
mail to you before it is too
late.

Your loving husband.

Bob Byron

Excuse my pencil but it writes
so much faster.

Bob