

"WITH THE COLORS."

April 19th, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Last night the entire regiment was assembled and given instructions in regard to our leaving. Today we are having our last inspection and check up. I now have everything I need clothes belts and everything imaginable. (IMP).

We are to leave in a very few days. The time and place I know but cannot disclose to you. The postal all is well I have mailed. Do not send anymore mail to this camp as when you mail it, I may not be here to receive it.

"This is important"

Where we are to be sent to embark, I understand we will only be there for three weeks. Ten days in quarantine out of 21 days. In that time some 80 men who have not been home, will be given furloughs. Of course I shall try but I have been told my chances are very small if none at all. As soon as we are allowed I will telegraph you and say all is well "come" giving the address. By that I mean for you and Dad and any more of my relations who care to see me to come over to the camp. You will be allowed to either come in or me to come out. Of which I do not know the preference.

Do you fully understand it. I am just dying to see you and Dad and it would nearly break my heart if I waited for leave thinking to get home and then not see you at all. I don't want that to happen. Over 50% of the boys are making the same kind of preparations so what you think best do. Even if you did come and just before we left I was given a few hours off, I would run into Phila. at once.

Today it is raining cats and dogs with no signs of any let up. Yesterday I was out to the pistol range again. I believe I qualified for the next range. Last night I received a new bugle and sling. We also were paid.

I will write a letter on Sunday if possible.
Remember always, I am

Your loving son,
Howard.

P.S.

Your reference once to a card game in your letter. The only game of cards I ever have played is "Hearts" You can not play money with that game Have no fears, I still keep away from gambling.

H.