

"WITH THE COLORS"

April 3rd, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Just at present I am writing this letter in the Y. M. C. A., to the tune of one of the popular nation songs. We just sang the Star Spangled Banner, with a chorus of about 200 men. Tonight I received Dad's letter, but as yet no letter from Mother. Dad spoke about Jack, just receiving him and naming, As I said before, I have no further wish to change his name as I think it is very cute and catching. Let us hope not to catching for strangers. I am very glad you like him so well. If there is anything I love in animals, is a little pup, I hope I may see him before he gets settled in his ways.

Dad said you had a beautiful Easter Day. We also had a wonderful clear cool day and as I wrote Sunday, enjoyed the day, as best I could among strangers.

Things are going along steadily and smoothly. Every day I believe, brings us nearer to our departure. Don't let these few words worry or depress you, as there is nothing alarming about it. Maybe it will only mean a sooner meeting foruus. One thing, is to look at our moving in this light. It will make about 30 thousand fellows untold happy at the realization of their dreams. Maybe in view of the circumstances, it is not right for me to want to go across, or to be happy in the thought of ~~tonight~~ leaving all I hold dear. That is not the way you look at it I know and glory in the fact you neither criticize or nag about the same. That I can patriotically say, neither you, Dad or Ma or any of the "Munders" would stupe to do. Some people only look at the mercenery side of this war and fail to realize the sacrafice the nations head and men are making. It is hard for the ones at home we all know and I especially realize how brave and loyal you and Dad are may your reward be just as great some day as the men who win medals on the field of honor.

Tonight I am cheerful and happy, but just serious and thinking deeply. I am enclosing this letter in one of our Camp papers and hope you enjoy it. The facts stated tell more than I could write. Yesterday was on Guard. Today received a bunch of new clothes. Shoes, shirt, three suits summer underwear, waist belt, pair pants, I am very well equipped at present in clothes and I manage to keep them in good repair. Thank goodness we don't have to darn socks. Old are replaced with new ones. Good bye with love,

Your loving son,

Howard.