

"WITH THE COLORS."

April 6th, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Received tonight Dad's letter but for about five days have received none from Mother. I suppose they are delayed. Once in awhile the mail becomes quite clogged. Here lately, most of my letters, I write in the Y. M. C. A. as it is more comfortable and writing material close at hand. Still I always use my faithful fountain pen, which is of inestimable value, even more so, than thought, perhaps when you bought it.

Just at present the Band is playing a dandy piece, full of Pep just as our Division slogan is. Everything now is being marked with over seas stencil and painted ready for shipment. The division as you may know is to be called the Keystone D. The keystone in blue and the shell shape in the middle white. The blue stands for Infantry, yellow calvary, red artillery. (A. E. F) American Expeditionary Force. Don't that look and sound great. Believe me excitement is at fever heat at present. Tomorrow I am going to put in for 48 hours leave, when we reach Camp Merritt. I don't know how I will make out.

I am very glad to hear pinky is so pleasant with the pup. Give it a good hug and kiss for me. We often have people come up from town to sing for us, just like you do for the sailors. bless their hearts. Today we had another big issue of ordnance, meaning new pack carriers, belts, provision cans, mess kits and canteens.

Tomorrow we are to have another huge divisional review for some visiting General. Our Colonel Brown is now home from Texas where he was training for overseas fighting.

One thing Dad I can't get down here despite my trying. Please send me two good indelible pencils, to mark my clothing and for writing. They cannot be bought here. They are the only thing clothes can be marked with. Would appreciate it either you or Mother would attend to this for me.

Good bye with love to everybody,

Lovingly,

Howard.