

"WITH THE COLORS."

March 31st, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Received your letter tonight in which you state having a new put, by the name of "Jack" I like the name very much and am pleased you have another besides Pinky. I know she will still receive the same love and attention she always has but a little pup now, will be of great cheer and company to you. Believe me I will be glad to have a picture of it. If you can I would like very much to have a picture of the two dogs together and one of the pup alone. The second is just a suggestion. I also would dearly love to have a picture of you and Dad, taken either in the yard or on some part of the house so as I can always keep the dear home in my memory. I am very glad you like the two pictures I sent you. I also am very glad to hear the rest are getting the dog germ, because it is a good habit to get into. Even though I have not a separate dog friend here I certainly have a host of dogs when I go out to bugle practice because there always is a few following us everydday and some they howl something awful till we either stop playing or heave a rock at them. Then they come and lay down at our feet.

Saturday afternoon I went into town and met Harry. He was going to the train to meet his Aunt who is to stay here for two weeks. She was of course pleased to see me and I begged her to stop home and see you when she goes back. She has made a sacred promise so in about three weeks expect her. After leaving them I then bought a ticket to the Grand to see the Berth of a Nation. Of course I liked it very much and it was certainly a wonderful picture. I then bought my supper and took a room at the Genesta Hotel. I intended to stay in town over night and then go to church in the morning. After supper I had my hair cut. Listen to this funny side only, but I came near boiling over, I walked into the best place in town and asked to have my hair cut. He finished that and then said my hair needed singeing so I let him do that so then it smelt bad and he said I needed some hair tonic on to take away the smell. As I was going to the Armory to dance afterwards I wanted to look my best, so I said go ahead. He wanted to shave and shampoo me, besides five or six other things. I refused and took my check. The fifteen minutes just cost me 75 cents and the price of my supper. I didn't know whether to be mad or not so I paid and went out 75¢ worth wiser than before. Thats how they burn soldiers down here. They think wer'e easy pickings but some time they'll get fooled.



I then went to the Armory and had a fine time there. I have become acquainted with annumber of very nice young girls and did not miss many dances.

Slept this morning till 11.20 and got up at once for church, I arrived there just after it had started. I took communion and the service was indeed very beautiful. The Alter was magnificently decorated with Easter flowers In church, when I saw so many young girls and Mothers and Fathers together. I really was Homesick, and certainly did think real hard of my dear happy home in good old Philly. It was soon lost in the service and I enjoyed it very much. I am sure you enjoyed your services too.

I came back to camp about 3.30 and was brought in by a motorcycle fellow, in his side-car, almost to my company I offered the soldier a cigar for his kindness. He seemed pleased.

Tomorrow we start in another week, who knows what it will bring forth. As to leaving, it is very vague some 20th April, others give various dates. I don't suppose we will move on any date, known to the men. We are to go to Camp Meritt I believe that is spelt right. Some of us will get leave of absence and others will not. On account of my furlough I don't suppose I will be one of the lucky ones. I might though, one can never tell.

Well, love to all and here is to seeing you soon, As ever,

Your loving son,

Howard,

P. S.

Give my love to Ma and tell her, her stamps came in very handy.

H.