

ARMY AND NAVY.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

"With the Colors"

October 14, 1917.

Dear Mother;

Received your very interesting letter and package together, also received Dad's letter last night I am going to thank Mr. Ryle and Grandma and Grandad for their very welcome gifts. The pillow is just right and could not be better suited for camp.

I Dad got up and packed the bundle, he certainly is an ace. Nothing was broken or mislaid.

As to my spelling, I hope you will over look it, as often times I only have ten minutes to write them in before the next mail, or maybe I am in the midst of a letter when out go the lights 9-15, it used to be 10.30 The peanut butter is fine and fresh. For supper we had bean soup, bread, coffee and bread pudding. I ait the peanut butter on my bread. The oranges are a diversion from the rest of the eats. One work of caution. Do not send anything in a bundle such as pairs, peaches, gananas or anything which will spoil in a few days as several of the boys packages have been opened and the spoiled fruit taken out. Each article in the box is useful and appreciated so I will not go into detail.

Today I took a hike with several other fellows taking our dinner with us only a light cracker lunch. We enjoyed some beautiful woods scenery especially in comming across a hidden lake immense fields of cotton and also saw a Baptist Christening.

As we were coming through the woods we spied a bunch of people down in a hollow who proved to be the people of one of the southern churches. They were gathered close to the shore of a small stream just under the broken side of a damed stream. My friends and I climbed up on the locks and watched the ceremony. They led two young girls down into the water up to their waists and then "sockco" in they went. After this they wrapped blankets around them. The congregation then went back to the church and had services. We then had dinner and after smoking a cigar went on our journey. I got back in time for Guard Mount and Retreat. 5. and 5.40

It is so cold now at 7 o'clock that I have slipped on m dressing gown to keep the early chill off. As to your answer in the blanket question, I would be very pleased if you would send me as soon as you can some old blankets. Ones which I will not have to return, in case I move in a hurry and not being able to carry them I could send them in our squadbag to where ever I am going. This way if they were lost I would not be losing a pair of valuable blankets.

Ask my Aunts and maybe they will have an old comfort quilt which they don't need, tell them I certainly need them, and the army will not issue a third blanket. I would also be glad if you would send one or two candles each week and about two or three boxes of safety matches. These I need and cannot always get then I want them, As I am staying out of town except once each week. It costs to much money.

Give my love to all, I mean whole "D" family.
With lots of love, I am

Lovingly,
Howard.

Tell Ets I cannot understand about her letter.