



ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
"WITH THE COLORS"

Saturday, Oct 12, 1918

Dear Mother: –

I'm in Louisville again this week-end and am staying at the YMCA for the night. I have a nice clean room all to myself and it does seem good to be quiet and rest for a while. I was lucky to get a pass this week and for only 10% of the company were allowed to go. I had a good excuse, tho– to get my hat reblocked. The other day the captain said it was the worst that he ever saw so he was glad enough to let me come to town to have it fixed. It really looks like new now. I had a good supper when I got here. It was nearly 5 before I left camp. We worked all day–three hours of exams this morning, then cleaning up the barrack and moving some materiel down on the drill field. I found out I could go on pass at 3 o'clock but had to stay and make some mechanical drawings of parts of the 3 in. gun which took me a good hour.

I called up the Munn's tonight an am

TO THE WRITER:-SAVE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER  
TO THE FOLKS AT HOME:-SAVE FOOD, BUY LIBERTY BONDS AND WAR SAVING STAMPS

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 102300

Date: August 21, 1861

Description: Sumner Cobb writes about the Spanish Flu, Louisville, 1918

going out there to dinner tomorrow. Isn't it dandy of them to be so nice to me. The churches are all closed tomorrow on account of the flu. It is quite bad in the city as well as at camp. We still have our two medical inspections daily. There are not many new cases in our own battery just now. They have taken a whole section of barracks for a temporary hospital and are treating light cases there. The fellow named Cobb from Portland Oregon whom I told you about in one of my letters died last week with it. He was a dandy fellow - was married and had a little family - two children I think.

It's nice you can have Lib home for a few days. Your telling about getting up that dandy supper for them made me decidedly homesick for we eat in the worst kind of way just now. So many <sup>(500 men)</sup> cooks are sick we have joined three batteries <sup>(500 men)</sup> together for mess. We have to use our old mess kits and stand in line a long time. The food is fairly good - when you get it, but you only get about half enough. Did I tell you I had gained 8 lbs since I came here?

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That doesn't speak as if I were starving to death, does it? Where we have so little time to ourselves at noon, it makes it hard to spend so much time in line. Often we go over for mess at 11:45—just as soon as we are back from drill and don't get there till 12:15—ten minutes before we are due to fall in again. These precious 10 min. also have to be spent in shining shoes for we have an inspection the first thing after dinner.

There is an extra just out that the Germans have accepted Wilson's terms but I don't believe it. I hope the war won't be settled that way but will be decided on the battle front. The fellows here are already worrying for fear they won't get their commissions. That is the least of my troubles— if war will only end, I don't care a rap about a commission.

Reveille has been changed from 5:30 to 5:45—fifteen more minutes to sleep in the

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morning now. So far the two mornings the  
new rule has been enforced, I have been  
up at 5:15 to shave before reveille.

I had a dandy box of chocolates from  
Connie this week. I sure did enjoy  
them for anything sweet is a novelty  
around camp. The Flu makes it  
impossible to get to a canteen to buy  
even a cake of sweet chocolate.

One of the fellows near me had some  
jelly sent him this week and another fellow  
some crackers. A crowd of 5 or 6 of us  
had a feed on them the other night which  
was lots of fun. It seemed just like  
college once more.

Well, it is more than bedtime and since  
I'm tired out with the week's work I  
believe I'll say good-night to all my  
dear family and run up-stairs to bed. Here's  
a kiss for you, my dear. X

Love to all,

Sum.

P.S. George St. John is in the same Battery with  
me still. He lets me read his Express once  
in a while when it comes - 3 days late.

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P.S.

Sunday morning.

I did have such a good sleep last night! I woke up at reveille<sup>(5:15)</sup> as usual but only to thank the good Lord I didn't have to get up but could sleep as long as I wanted to - which was nearly nine o'clock.

I wonder if you could send me a couple suits of winter pajamas - any old ones will do. They will come in very handy when it begins to be a bit cooler nights.

If Lib is still with you, please ask her if she got the little package I sent her a while ago. She didn't mention it in her letter and I wondered if she got it. It was just some discarded insignia which she said she would like.

I wrote Herb a long letter last night - the first I have written him since I came here. The morning papers here sure do look favorable for an early leave.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if it would

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