

SOLDIER—ATTENTION

A PRIVATE WORD WITH YOU

SOLDIER, you responded when your country called. You have put your strength, your manhood and your hope into this war. You want to be a clean-cut fighting-man. You want ours to be the most efficient army in the world. You want the army to win.

You cannot be a clean-cut fighting-man, you cannot do your part in making a great army and you cannot do your best toward winning the war unless you avoid immoral women. For from these women comes disease. From disease comes inefficiency. From inefficiency comes disaster.

It is unpatriotic to be immoral. A good soldier will not hazard his physical fitness and his moral cleanness by association with bad women. Every man who is moral adds to the strength of the army. Every man who is immoral invites the ruin of the army and the death of himself and his comrades-in-arms.

Europe had found this out. Our associates in the great war for democracy—French, British, Belgian, Russian and the rest—have all seen that the disability from venereal disease has weakened their armies and has been one of the causes that have postponed final victory. If you want to save America from like experience—if you want victory to come quickly and certainly—you can at least do your share toward keeping the army morally clean and morally straight.

Sexual intercourse is not necessary to good health. Self control is. Which will you exhibit—the spirit of a man, strong and self-contained, or the spirit of your worst self?

We ask you to follow honestly and literally the health regulations of the army.

We ask you to keep in touch with your home-folks and to remember that you are fighting for the clean things of life—for home, for sweetheart, for sister and for mother.

We ask you to engage only in such amusements as will keep your body in good condition, remembering that clean athletics and manly sport will help prepare you to meet the enemy.

We ask you to guard your own conduct while on furlough and to help the other fellow keep straight.

We ask you to remember what your body means to your country and your flag: Care for it as a precious possession, dedicated to a worthy cause without reproach or strain.

We ask you to remember that you represent the honor, the character and the cleanness of America: By your acts your nation will be judged.

This little message is written you from a conference held in the office of the Governor of Virginia and it is signed by friends.

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Governor of Virginia.

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Issued, at the request of the Conference, by the _____ Board of Health of
the Commonwealth of Virginia.