

1-12-1918

U. S. Base Hospital No. 3.
56 West 66th St
Jan. 11, 1918.

Mr. Luther Martin
Rutgers College
New Brunswick

Dear Sir:

I am connected with the above, having enlisted last May, in the expectation of a quick get-away. Under a new general order the commanding officer of the unit is asking for three letters of character attesting to the loyalty and integrity of the personnel for overseas service. I am requesting that you kindly write such a letter, perhaps mentioning

military training received at
Rutgers in addition. We have
been given til Monday
afternoon to file the letters

The object I believe is
to keep spies and undesirable
out of the service and to
have every man sponsored

I hope your letter will
set me soon on the way over

Sincerely yours

(Pnt) George M Bechtel '14

January 14, 1918.

Private George M. Bechtel,
U. S. Base Hospital #3,
56 West 66th St.,

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

I am wondering if you have been receiving the war service letters which have been sent to Base Hospital #3, A. E. F. If not, I would appreciate advise from you so that I may send the letters to the right address. When you leave for the other side, I wish you would drop me an occasional line so that the College may keep in touch with you.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

ERS.MVH

41 St. Nicholas Terrace.
Jan. 30 1918.

Dear Luther:

Many thanks for
your letter recommending
me for service. I appreciated
particularly the personal
quality of it and am glad
you mentioned my military
training.

We have been delayed
a good many times but
I have good reason to
believe that we will
be on our way shortly

I received a letter from Silver
asking if I had received any
war service letters addressed to
Base Hosp. 3. I haven't received
any to date, but would like
very much to get them.

Address

Private 1st class G. M. Bechtel
Base Hospital No. 3.

American Expeditionary Force
(not A.E.F. as that designates
the Australian contingent as well.

Hope you will pardon this
hurried scrawl. Thanking both
you and Silver for your interest
I am

Sincerely yours
George Bechtel 14

From Sergt. George M. Bechtel '14

England, March, 1918.

Our ship certainly encountered some rough weather coming over. For three days we were not allowed on deck at all; and when we were finally permitted to go out, we found the after deck pretty well messed up. Several life boats were wrecked and some civilians in the steerage were literally washed out of their bunks. I slept soundly through it all, though; in fact, have not been the least sick during the three weeks we were on the water.

The last day on board was by far the most interesting, coming up the river. The farm lands are all under cultivation, and the grass is as green as it ever is at home; not a sign of snow. We saw several historic old castles along the river, just as I have read and heard tell of, but never hoped to see under these circumstances.

It is strange to see women in overalls working beside the men in foundries and boiler shops over here, but they make you realize how much everybody is in the war.

You would laugh at the cars we travelled in. They are divided into compartments that will "hold" six men, although at rather close range. We made several stops during the night, and at each station there was a committee of women who gave out tea and biscuits to the boys. It certainly impressed me to see women folk up until after midnight doing what they could to help. We were not greeted by any cheering and flag waving, which while disappointing in a way, is easily understood when you think of how long they have been at it. The novelty has worn off and the people have settled down to brass tacks in a businesslike way that manifests itself in results, not in fireworks.

We arrived here late this morning and immediately hiked three miles to camp. Maybe that old army grub didn't taste good after days and days of "sea food". One look was enough to quell the most obstinate appetite.

To-night we sleep under canvas, and off againto-morrow. "Squads east" is still the prevailing command, but I think "Eastwood Ho!" will soon change to "Eastward whoa!" Join the army and see the world is surely a mild way of putting it.

41 St. Nicholas Terrace
N.Y.C.



Mr. Earl Reed Silvers,
Managing Editor Rutgers Quarterly

My dear Mr. Silvers,

I am enclosing 3 of my
son's letters. If you can use
any parts of them for your
paper, you are cordially welcome
to them. Some parts of the
letters have been censored, but
I think you will be able to
get some interesting news from
them, notwithstanding.

Keep the letters as long as

you need them, then please
return them, as they are very
dear to me. I shall be glad to
have a copy of the Quarterly
Very sincerely,

(Mrs) Margaret Bechtel R.N.

May 22-1918

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June 3, 1918

Mrs. Margaret Bechtel, R.N.
41 St. Nicholas Terrace,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Bechtel:

Thank you very much for the three
letters from your son which you have so kindly
forwarded to me. I shall take very good care of
them and shall return them to you within the next
week or two.

Very truly yours,

ERS/W