



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

It is evident that my  
address hasn't changed  
or this Card wouldn't  
have reached me. Don't  
mind my line of chatter,  
but I haven't had a good  
meal in so long I'm  
going to my bed. We  
are here for only 4  
weeks more, after which  
I shall be pleased to  
advise you of my new  
address. I hope it is  
France. myself & so  
do nearly all of us here.  
We'll be overtrained  
if they don't be careful.

R. E. Carpenter  
3rd Co. Inf. 7th Army Corps.

Thursday. 6. m.  
Ft. Meyer. Va.  
3rd Inf. Co. U.S.T.C.

Dear Hil:-

It may interest  
you to hear of the trench  
digging & life in the  
trenches as it is done here  
in America. The whole  
post has been at it  
since Monday, & they  
continue until Saturday.  
I am relieved of that  
duty, for this week I am  
mess sergeant & have



among the pots + pans +  
fore quarters of beef +  
hams + boxes of cats.

Really, I've had so much  
of an eye feast that  
I am no longer hungry  
at meal times (Prof.  
Marvin can give you  
the psychology of that).

The lunch system  
is quite complete,  
with a fighting lay  
on every 8 men. the  
reserve platoon hollows.



the officer's quarters, the  
battalion headquarters,  
the officer's sleep holes,  
the machine gun em-  
placements, the com-  
municating trenches,  
the dressing stations,  
the periscopes. and, in  
short everything is in  
fact there, or is most  
widely simulated.

We operate on the  
defensive today, off-  
ensive tomorrow & a  
general relief Saturday.

And, by way of a most  
important digression,  
we are to receive  
our first pay Tuesday.  
I'm so overcome by  
that thought, that  
I can think of nothing  
further.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Corson



From Second Lieutenant Ralph E. Cooper '13

August 1917.

Life here is so intensively lived that one hardly knows where to begin in trying to tell you of it. From 5.30 in the morning until 9.45 in the evening we are mystified by a vertiable kaleidoscope of drills, bayonet exercises, gren- and throwing, setting up exercises (Swedish), conferences, formal reviews, and study hours. A man with no previous military training is lost. It follows that the training at Rutgers is now valuable and indeed adequate.

We are a cosmopolitan group. Men from 21 to 45 years of age, from five different states, from every business and profession, are all here digging for a commission, the better to serve in the war.

We are vaccinated, inoculated, examined in general and in minute detail, watched and guarded so much that it is my impression we are immune from everything but shrapnel, and I'm confident some one will get a serum for that malady. Really our left arms resemble a T. N. E. brand, which, it is rumored, makes quite an impression.

We hike with 60-pound packs and rifles; we stick dummies in various parts of the sawdust; we slay imaginary enemies with all the nerve of a real Hun hunter; and yet, strangest of all, we gain weight.

You may be interested to hear of the trench digging and trench life as it is done here in America. The trench system is quite complete, with a fighting lay for every eight men, the reserve platoon hollows, the officers' quarters, the battalion headquarters, the officers' peepholes, the machine-gun emplacements, the communicating trenches, the dressing stations, the periscopes, and, in short, everything as we will find it in France. We operate on the defensive to-day, offensive tomorrow, and a general relief Saturday,



239 Parker Street,

Newark New Jersey.

December 4 1917.

Dear Sil,-

I am ashamed that after the fine service you are giving the Rutgers men that I havent told you of my address before. I am here at home until the 15th, and then my address is Leon Springs Texas. I sure hope you'll keep up the good work and let me hear from you by those letters. Thats great stuff. And if I get a rattler or a centipede I'll ship it to Rutgers.

Yours in 1913,

*Ralph E. Cooper.*



December 6th. 1917.

Mr. Ralph E. Cooper,  
239 Parker Street,  
Newark, N.J.

Dear Ralph:-

Thank you for your letter of December 4th and for your address at Leon Springs. When you get down there will you please send me your company or your regiment as I am afraid that a letter addressed to you simply at the Springs will not be delivered. I am going to look forward to your rattler or centipede. I hope that you will find something to send me. Phil Savage, '19 is also going to report at Leon Springs and I am sure he would be mighty glad to see you if you could look him up. Congratulations on your commission.

Yours in 1913.



# UNITED STATES ARMY BALLOON SCHOOL

FORT OMAHA, NEBRASKA

February 5 1918.

Dear Sil,-

I must apologize to you for not having been more prompt in advising you of change of address. I noted that you sent the last letter to me at Leon Springs Texas. But I havent been there since the 23rd of December. The ways of the war department are way beyond the ken of a mere lieutenant like myself, but after I have told you my story maybe you can fathom the reason of it all.

When I arrived at Leon Springs I found that there were about 1200 officers there all fresh from their training camps. We had nothing to do and an awful place to do it. If you ever get tired of the place you are in, no matter where it is, just go to Leon Springs and you'll think that former place is heaven. We were there only four days when the order came that there were 800 officers needed in a hurry at the aviation field at San Antonio, known as Kelly Field. Well it didnt take long to get that many officers there. We were put in charge of companies of green recruits, mostly from Fort Slocum who were to be trained to repair, maintain and handle aeroplanes. In the first place that is a very technical branch of the service and requires special training of course. But did that cause the war department any uneasiness because we infantry officers didnt know one part of an aeroplane from another? Not at bit. Well we were just getting used to bluffing our way thru there wehn another order came thru that a lot of officers were needed in the various balloon posts all over the country and among 21 others I went to Fort Omaha nebraska? That is my present address and from what I can see, it will be for some time to come. I know



# UNITED STATES ARMY BALLOON SCHOOL

FORT OMAHA, NEBRASKA

a great deal less about balloons than I do about earoplanes, but that didnt make any difference to the authorities. However, the officers in charge here seemed to realize the hopelessness of the situation and we havent had a thing to do but nurse colds since we arrived here on the 8th of January. Of course it is great to see America first at the expense of the government. I have traveled about 4000 miles in great style so far and anticipate some more but Sil, when one multiplies my little experience by many hundreds of cases like it, I begin to wonder when they will have to place another liberty loan to pay for our amusement. It will never win the war will it?

It was great to learn that the collection at the college was growing so fast and that the nature of the trophies was so interesting. I can assure you that anything of interest I may be able to pick up will find its way there too. I am sorry that I have had nom opportunity to get anything but milage vouchers so far, but they would hardly prove interesting to you.

I shall expect to hear from you soon and this time please send my copy of those good old letters to me at Fort Omaha, Neb.

yours very sincerely,

Ralph E. Cooper



February 8, 1918.

Lieut. Ralph E. Cooper,  
Fort Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Coop:

Your letter of February 5th was very much appreciated. It is good to hear from you after a silence of several weeks and I am glad to know that you are seeing the Country although I suppose you would prefer to get down to serious work.

Do not forget to keep in touch with me and write whenever you find time.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Director

ERS/MVH



Fort Omaha. Neb.  
2-26-18.

Dear Sil:-

Your last circular  
letter came to hand a  
few days ago. I had  
read of Sherman Criblin's  
heroism in his own home  
town papers. They are a  
rare family. Three  
brothers, and all of  
them in it.

I received orders today  
to proceed to Fort Sill.



Oklahoma, where I will  
join a balloon company,  
and am told I'll be  
in France in 6 weeks. I  
hope they're not kidding  
me as I'm "saying to  
go" as they say out here.

I'll send you a new  
address as soon as I  
have one.

Sincerely

Ralph E. Cooper.



Post Field, Fort Sill, Okla.  
June 19 1918.

Dear Sir:-

Note the address. Your letter of June 6<sup>th</sup> travelled from New Brunswick to Leon Springs Texas, then to San Antonio, from there to Omaha, and finally arrived here. Guess your mailing clerk must have misplaced the corrected address card, eh!



I am still supplying  
the men in the 39<sup>th</sup> Balloon  
Company with equipment-  
clothing, and legal ad-  
vice. Got a hold up man  
off in a court martial  
trial, and the news  
spread.

Expect orders to  
go either to Los Angeles  
or back to Omaha by  
the end of this week to  
go into the theory of  
ballooning for 10 weeks.



Every day for two weeks  
the temperature has been  
over a hundred in the  
shade, and (its old. temp-  
ture) there isn't any  
shade.

Several searlet men  
are here or have been  
in the last few weeks.  
Met the Douglas '13.

Hubert - (pilot) '14

Manley (photo-) '14 & '15

Blue (pilot) '14.

Whistler (observer) '16



It's funny how you  
met him. An officer in-  
sisted in stepping on my  
foot in the one lung  
trolley. It reminded me  
of Glee Clark days when  
Blane had a habit of  
putting his feet elsewhere  
than on the floor.

Whistler was an  
artillery officer but has  
been detailed here  
to become a balloon  
observer.



A major was trying  
to get away into a  
discussion on international  
law last night. He  
read it from a rather  
advanced book. Not  
one of the self pronouncing  
self explanatory kind.

He recalled dear old  
Scotty to me. How he  
would have gone for  
the major. Didn't him  
when Hugo Grotius was,  
or whether we were a



republic or a democracy,  
etc ad nauseum.

Best wishes.

Ralph E. Conner



June 24,  
1918.

Lieut. Ralph E. Cooper,  
Post Field,  
Fort Sill, Okla.

Dear Ralph:

It is pretty hard to keep our records up to date on the War Service Bureau. We now have over six hundred men on our list and as they are continually shifting we are bound to make mistakes now and then. I am sorry that we did not have you listed correctly, as I am, of course, especially anxious to keep in touch with the men of 1913.

We had our reunion on May 20th with fifteen men back. The whole affair was rather quiet but everybody seemed to enjoy himself and we all had a good old chat over our college days. After the war is over we must get together and hear of the adventures of you men in the service.

Good luck to you and all best wishes.

Cordially yours,

ERS/W



Fort Omaha, Neb.

July 8 1918

Dear Sil;

You didnt put  
any postal card in my  
letter so I guess you thought  
I'd stay in Oklahoma  
the rest of my days. But  
here I am in Omaha  
nevertheless. I have been  
detained here to take a  
course in balloon ob-  
servation. The term is of  
course self explanatory.  
When I have finished  
I get a rating as an  
observer, with a little



white wing & an "O" on  
my coat. All dolled  
up. Then I go up & get  
a line on the Huns from  
3000 feet. Believe me I  
am tired of fighting  
Germany from a posi-  
tion west of the Mis-  
sissippi river.

I was awfully sorry  
to learn that they got  
Scarr. He was a dandy  
lad. Too good for the  
damn Huns to get. But  
I'm sure there isn't a  
Scarlet son who knew



him who won't re-  
member that when they  
get a chance.

How would you like  
sometimes, Hil, to tell  
us in your letters about  
some of the good old  
props we had? Many  
of us would enjoy a  
word of them.

Your letters are a  
great idea, Hil, & we  
all look for them with  
real interest.

Yours always in 1913  
Ralph E. Cooper



July 12,  
1918.

Lieut. Ralph E. Cooper,  
Balloon Observation  
Fort Omaha, Neb.

Dear Ralph:

I did think that you were anchored  
at Oklahoma for a while at least and I am mighty  
pleased to have your letter of July 8th giving  
your change of address. It is always fine to  
hear from the members of my own class and I  
hope that you will keep in touch with me all  
during the war.

Most cordially yours,

ERS/W



Fort Omaha, Neb.

Sept. 23 1918/

Dear Sil,

That is rare news in your letter of the 19th that Rutgers is a real war machine thru and thru. And judging by the performances of the Rutgers men who took the former military training there when it amounted to only 4 hours a week, I dare say we'll have a rare lot of men trained for the big smash in the spring. Since I am not very busy here just now( waiting for orders again) I'd like to be there to help get the military end of the college going strong/ but its a little too far away.

I expect my next move will be to Arcadia Cal. just a few miles inland from Los Angeles. There is a training camp for aerial observer there which I am in line to attend. It takes them the devil of a while to get some of us headed for France doesn't it? I have waited 7 weeks now for these orders, and no one can say how much longer it will take. In the mean while, except for a few court martial trials where I have been defending the prisoner, I haven't had a thing to do?

The chief diversion here for a man of leisure is to attend the opening performance of all the movies in town. Its a great life for a week and after that its like being punished.

No news old man, from me, but just a word of appreciation for the letters.

Yours in 1913,

R. S.

Cooper



September 26  
1918.

Lieut. Ralph E. Cooper,  
Balloon Observation,  
Fort Omaha, Neb.

Dear Ralph:

Thank you for your letter of September 23rd. I had expected that you would be across by this time and was surprised to know that you are still in Nebraska. However let us hope that you will see some of the real action before the war is over. If you should go to Arcadia be sure to look up George Whisler who has been sent there for aerial observation. I know that he would be mighty glad to see you and have a talk over olden times.

With kind personal regards,

Cordially yours,

ERS/G



Fort Omaha Nebraska.

October 5 1918.

Dear Sil,-

What do you know about this? I have a job on this post/the first in nine weeks. I am the Liberty Loan Officer of this post/ and Fort Crook which is a sub post. We are just raking in the money so fast that it takes all my time to sort and count it. But that will soon be over and then I will again be waiting for orders.

I have a little girl friend from Newark who has just started from home for college. She has an idea that the colleges of all her acquaintances should be evident in the banners in her room. To this end will you detail one of your trusty men to purchase such a pennant, suitable for wall decoration, send me a bill for it, for which I will very promptly remit, and send the token of Rutgers, together with a card bearing my name, to

Miss Margaret Vanderhoof,

Mount Ida School,

Newton, Mass.

There isnt a devil of a lot of news. We all go to tea at the home of the commanding officer this afternoon, but that isnt exciting.

yours always in 1913,

Ralph E. Cope



October 10  
1918

Lieut. Ralph E. Cooper,  
Fort Omaha, Neb.

Dear Ralph:

I am glad to know that you have got something to do at last and wish you all success in the campaign you are conducting. Most assuredly, we cannot let the young lady from Newark be disappointed, and I am sending her today a Rutgers banner together with a card bearing your name. The cost was one dollar.

Good luck to you and all best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

G



October 21, 1918

Lieut. Ralph E. Cooper  
Balloon Observation School,  
Arcadia, Calif.

Dear Ralph:

I am glad to know that you will have a change of scene for the next few months. A winter at California is surely a pleasant way to be at war., but I hope with you that you are able to get to the other side before things are entirely finished. Please remember me to George Whisler if you see him. I think that I told you he is now married. I have never received a copy of the Arcadia Observer and would appreciate your sending me one.

Cordially yours,



Sunday 9. M.

My dear Silvers:

Thanks for  
your letter enclosing list of  
Putgers Men in Camp. Allow  
me to call <sup>to</sup> your attention  
that E. Tril Smith '13 is  
here in 1<sup>st</sup> Battery. His  
name is not on the list.

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Life here is so intensely  
lived that one hardly  
knows where to begin in  
trying to tell you of it.  
From 5:30 in the morning



until 9:45 in the evening  
we are mystified by a  
veritable kalaidoscope of  
drills, bayonet exercises,  
grenade throwing, setting  
up exercises (Swedish) con-  
ferences - formal reviews,  
and study hours. A man  
with no previous military  
experience is lost. It  
follows that the training of  
Putyers is now valuable +  
exceeds adequate.

We are a cosmopol-  
itan group. Men from 21  
to 45 years of age, from



five different states, from  
every business + profession,  
are all here. Digging for  
a common, it's better to  
serve in the war.

We are vaccinated, in-  
oculated, examined in  
general + in minute de-  
tail, watched + guarded,  
~~so~~ much that it is  
very unpression, we are  
immune from everything  
but shrapnel + sin con-  
fidence. soon we will get  
a rum for that maledy.  
Really our left arm ~~is~~



assemble a T. N. E. result.  
which, it is removed, makes  
quite an impression.

We lute with 60 lb pads  
& rifles, we stick dummies  
in various parts of his sawdust.  
we slay imaginary enemies  
with all the verve of a real  
Horn hunter. And yet,

strongest of all, we gain  
weight. I, who never ex-  
ceeded 128 in college +  
134 out of it weigh 141 lbs  
in light summer kakis.



My best wishes to  
you in your work. Silvers,  
and to any '13 men you  
may meet.

Yours in 1913  
Ralph E. Cooper





U.S. ARMY BALLOON SCHOOL  
ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA

Dec. 13. 1918.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your request for histories of various Camps I can do no better than to enclose its official history. Having been in so many camps our finds the life in them is all pretty much alike. It being the social possibilities outside the job that counts. To that end Arcadia is the peer of them all; and I have been in Ft. Myer Va., Fort Spruce Texas, Kelly Field Texas; Ft. Huachuca Ft. Det. Yours. Cropper.



Charles Nelson

Wm. Vancus

Muriel - daughter

Wm. Chase



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CHARLES E. CORBIN  
CHARLES W. BROADHURST

*Jersey City, N. J.* January 27, 1919.

Mr. Earl Reed Silvers,  
Rutgers College,  
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Sil:

Your last letter of January 15th has had a 7,000 mile trip in finding me inasmuch as I received my discharge from "this man's Army" on January 4th and left forthwith pell mell with great haste for Newark, N. J.

George Whistler who, as you know, married a very charming girl in Pasadena, Calif., sent you through me his very kind personal regards and sometime when <sup>opportunity</sup> ~~it~~ presents itself I surely want to come down and have a talk with you and see your collection of trophies. I suppose that will have to be some Saturday afternoon or Sunday and I presume that you are very seldom if ever in New Brunswick on those occasions.

I note what you say in regard to the yellow tags which the freshmen are wearing. Don't you think it an excellent idea from the standpoint of having everyone well acquainted in College to have some such name tag on the chest of each freshman, for it will necessitate their getting acquainted with one another and with everyone in College knowing who they are.

I certainly envy you your opportunity in seeing real old Rutgers' College spirit again in those freshmen-sophomore rushes.

We have heard something to the effect that Dr. Scott is no longer actively engaged in the College. Some slight word concerning him would be appreciated I think by most of the alumni.

Very truly yours,

REC/LC

*Palph E. Corbin*