

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



July 28, '18

Mr. E. R. Silvers, Director
War Service Bureau
Rutgers College

Dear Sir:

For some time now your letters have been coming to me and have kept me in touch with old Rutgers. From December when I left to enlist until June the college seemed a long distance away and my connection and training in it seemed to have been in the distant past. When your letters began to arrive though, the college came that much closer and I began to feel more as if I were a part of that great organization which is now, as in the past, offering its all to the service of the country it serves.

The letters bring a sadness

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

as well as a joy; for when I read that another has made the supreme sacrifice and given his life I am sorry; sorry that it must be so. But there is gladness, too in the reflection, for those names go down on the everlasting Roll of Honor which shall always make sacred those names and deeds of our heroes.

Up to the present time, I have not come in touch with any other Rutgers man, so perhaps you would like to hear what is happening to old "Just Barkis", of brief standing on the Targum staff.

First Kindly note my change of address and send the letters until further notice to:

Cadet ——
Eberts Field
Lonoke
Arkansas

From March 9th until May 18th I was enjoying the efforts, joys and discouragements of Ground School like at Cornell. On the latter



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date I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of twenty men to graduate two weeks early, and be sent to Mineola flying field direct for my flying training. May 29th I started my flying there with my first air trip. I was rather disappointed, for the thrills about which you hear so much were almost entirely lacking. I have had them since, but they were not in simple flying! After seven hours in the air I went on my first solo - my first trip in the air unaccompanied by an instructor - and actually got around without any wild work. So my solo work continued for some weeks, being interrupted by bad weather of all sorts. Thence July 3rd flying was stopped, and for two weeks we awaited orders

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doing "bunk fatigue" and attending classes. Then came orders sending us all over the country, and I was transferred with others to this country of cotton and rice fields and heat, heat, heat. Flying here is good and since there are very good chances of receiving my commission and my R.M.A. license within the next six weeks, I guess I can stand the temperature. A "cool" day here averages 100° in the shade.

At present I am in the spirals and eights stage and can run around quite a little. I get a short jazz every day and generally manage to get some altitude each time. Speaking about thrills, I had my first one the other day when I fell out of a vertical bank into a tail spin with my engine on. Another one came when I saw a flock of birds and found I could travel faster than they, though they had me on the turns. Then it is rather interesting to watch the sun rise when you



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are over a mile above the earth, which still is in shadow. These and the fact that you realize you are flying make up the joys of army life and compensate for the fact that you are far away from your home, your fiancée your friends and your alma mater.

This seems rather long and personal to me, so please pardon any egotism. I am so far away from news of common interest that I must talk about myself or nothing.

Now don't forget my new address please for I want to get my letters regularly.

"Just Barkis" wishes to be remembered to the new Targum staff when they arrive, and to

the college "which always is and always shall be". Also he desires to remember himself to his instructor in the art of short story writing.

Wishing the best of success to you and the college, I am

Sincerely,

Ward J. Davies

Ex-20.

August 1, 1918.

Cadet Ward J. Davies,

Eberts Field,

Lonoke, Ark.

Dear Mr. Davies;-

Your interesting letter arrived today, and is much appreciated. It is good to know that you are getting along so well and are enjoying your work. The best of luck to you, and all success.

Don't forget to keep in touch with me and notify me whenever your change your address. And let me know when the commission comes.

Cordially yours,



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Eberts Field
Lonoke,
Ark.
Sept 26, 1918

Mr. Earl R. Silvers.
Rutgers College
Dear Sir:

Just a note, asking you to kindly change my address, and title to:

Lt. Ward J Davies
Payne Field
West Point, Miss.

The orders have just come transferring me to my new post, which is an advanced pursuit school. The change in title came on September 12th, when I was commissioned a 2nd Lt. R.M.A. in the Air Service (Aeronautics). Since then I have been on a ten day leave and have announced my engagement to Miss Elizabeth MacEwen Smith

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER

of Hartford, Conn.

Such is my bit of news.

The service letters still come and are just as welcome as ever. Such news as they bring, good or bad, is always welcome and I look forward to their coming.

Wishing the college success in its new war work, and you personally in your "landlord" job and in the letters, I am

Sincerely

Ward J. Davies, ex'20
2nd Lt. R.M.A.; A.S.A.

September 30, 1918

Lieut. Ward J. Davies,
Payne Field,
West Point, Miss.

Dear Mr. Davies:

I am glad to hear of the winning of your commission and to know your new address. It is good of you to write me and I aporeciate your continued interest. May I offer you my most hearty congratulations on your gngagement.

Very sincerely yours,

WRS/G

November 15,
1 9 1 8

Lieut. Ward J. Davies,
R.M.A. A.S.A.,
Payne Field,
West Point, Miss.

Dear Lieutenant Davies:-

May I express my sincere congratulations on your marriage and wish you all future success and happiness.

Cordially yours,

MRS/G