

New-Brunswick N.J. May 22, 1918

Mr Earl Reed Silvers,

My dear Sir:

My son's letters are mostly in the hands of his sisters as he takes turns in writing to us, and what would be interesting especially, his favorite sister has and she would not part from the letters. But then Mrs. Sewall gave once something to "the Sunday Times" and you should have read his letter about it. He does not want anything printed from his letters except he orders it. Of course he writes only personal matters and experiences and about family connections of my wife in Basle, Switzerland. I am therefore sorry that I can not comply to your kind request, but it cannot be helped.

Yours
J. A. Sewall.

AMERICAN COMMISSION
TO NEGOTIATE PEACE
MISSION FOR GERMANY.

Berlin

Feb 17, '19.

Dear Silvers:

It's rather a long time since my
one and only letter to your war
service. I suppose it has now
come to an end, more or less. But
I suppose you are still willing to receive
letters. This will be a short one
as I merely want to notify you
of my present whereabouts.

The mission to Berlin was
organised at Paris by Capt Sherardi of
the navy who was our former
naval attaché here. The mission
consists mostly of military and
naval officers and we are here
for the Peace Conference to study

Conditions. We have all, more or less been crying "on to Berlin" for the last two years but there are very few of us who really got here. So we are rather proud of it.

We naturally attract a great deal of attention from the German populace. Now it is exactly hostile, but they don't love us, that is sure. Neither are we asking for any love.

Berlin is the worst of any of the cities as far as I can judge. The people everywhere are sullen, nervous and irritable. The under-nourishment is most perceptible among children and the poor. The death rates are extremely high. There is also a great deal of un-employment + consequently the streets are full of loafers who make good material for rots +

mobs.

There has been increasing signs of unrest during the last weeks, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if there would be some more trouble soon. Today the guards were tripled around the public offices and machine guns have been much in evidence. We hear firing almost every day.

Another officer and I were sent up especially to Bremen and Hamburg where there had been a lot of trouble. Bremen had just been taken by the government troops before we arrived there. And we had all sorts of interesting experiences. And at Hamburg we sat in a Soldier's Council meeting and had a chance to talk to the leaders of the organisation which has been the cause of so much trouble and discussion here.

We may not stay here very much longer having been here three weeks already. But I thought

You might be interested to know⁽⁴⁷⁾
that Rutgers is also represented
in Berlin!

With best regards to Dr Demarest,
and in appreciation of all the war
service letters which I received.

Sincerely

Ernest T. Dewald

1st Lieut Inf
U.S.

In Berlin

From Lieut. Ernest T. Dewald '11

Berlin,

February 17, 1919.

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I suppose it has now come to an end, more or less. But I suppose you are still willing to receive letters. This will be a short one, as I merely want to notify you of my present whereabouts.

The mission to Berlin was organized at Paris by Captain Gherardi of the Navy, who was our former naval attache here. The mission consists mostly of military and naval officers and we are here for the Peace Conference to study conditions. We have all more or less been crying "On to Berlin" for the last two years, but there are very few of us who really got here. So we naturally are rather proud of it.

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AMERICAN LEGATION
THE MILITARY ATTACHÉ
BERNE.

Aug 15, '18.

My dear Silvers:

Ever since your first letters came I have had the good intention of writing at least to tell you how very much those faithful war service letters are appreciated.

Being here in Switzerland for the present I have not come across any other Rutgers man. The other Officers who are here are from Princeton Yale Harvard Chicago and Penn. So the only possible news from Rutgers and the only touch ~~are~~ your letters.

I shan't bore you therefore by talking of myself but shall try to give you a brief impression of the atmosphere here in this small country surrounded by war.

Our work is of a very particular sort here, many sided but of extreme value to Headquarters in France. I can't go into detail because we are bound to silence on this matter. Suffice it to say that it is of extreme importance. We are continually back and forth to France. When we first came there were only three of us a colonel a captain and myself. Now we are at least seven officers with several more on the way and a goodly number of other personnel.

After passing thru and sojourning in England France, and Headquarters and getting into the real war atmosphere and spirit, it was a curious contrast at first. For being in a neutral country we had to see plenty of Boches everyday and rub elbows with them. One of my roommates is a young lieutenant who saw three years active service in the foreign legions in France, and we often feel like that we would much rather see the Boches than a peep-sight! Switzerland is the happy hunting ground for all sorts of doubtful characters of international repute and disrepute, and people who have been expelled from their countries.

The country is full of German secret agents and the whole atmosphere is surcharged with suspicion. We have come to be quite acclimated to it tho, but at first it was exceedingly strange. Even the stolid Swiss who before the war knew nothing of these things, now consider everybody with suspicion, and if anyone asks any sort of a question about anything under the sun they at once suspect & are on their guard.

The hardest thing however for us here especially those of us who are lieutenants

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and captains is that we are being held here for the present and can't get into the active fighting now going on. I personally have continually applied for a transfer to go back to France but have been steadily refused. However a ray of hope was given us last week, when an inspecting Colonel came thru. After pleading with him he finally told us he intended giving us a chance later at active service. We have been happier since!

Tomorrow next month the big conference between Americans and Germans takes place here to discuss exchange of prisoners etc. which will mean extra work of a different sort.

Please remember me most cordially to Dr. Demarest and to those members of the faculty who helped to "shape my destinies"

very sincerely

Ernest T. Ullwald
1st Lieut. Inf. U.S.A.

Next month the big conference between Americans and Germans takes place here to discuss exchange of prisoners etc. which will mean extra work of a different sort.

Please remember me most cordially to Dr. Demarest, and to those members of the faculty who helped to share my destinies.

From Lieutenant E. D. Dewald

Berlin, Germany,

February 3rd, 1919.

Three of us left Berne last Wednesday. It took from 6 o'clock in the morning until 11:30 o'clock at night to reach Munich and there we had to wait over a day for the Berlin train.

As we stepped out of the train at Munich we were received by a small delegation and escorted to the hotel. They did their utmost to make a good impression. We had several interviews the next day and the Bavarians told us how they felt toward the Prussians, and that they hated the Prussians. Needless to say, we attracted a lot of attention during all the time because we were in uniform.

We left Munich Thursday night and got to Berlin Friday noon. Trains are very full and people try to jam in everywhere, but we have had a special compartment at our disposal.

In Berlin, we met the rest of the party. Yesterday some of us took a walk about the places where the worst fighting had taken place. It must have been pretty hot about the royal palace. The balcony where the Kaiser used to talk from is all shot to pieces. The whole facade is cut up and spotted with machine gun bullet marks. The royal stables right across the street from the statue of William the First is also all marked up. Even the big cathedral got its share of stray bullets and all down the Linden buildings are nicked up.

The atmosphere of the people both in Munich and Berlin is very depressing. Every one is so apathetic, as if they didn't care what would happen. In Berlin one notices the underfed looks of people more than in Munich. I don't see on what poor people live. We, as a commission, get pretty good food, but we have to pay 20 marks apiece for lunch, and 25 for dinner, table de hote, and then we have our own sugar, bread, butter, etc.

I have as yet no idea how long we shall be in Germany, but I hope that we shall get on the way home by summer.

March 18th, 1919.

Lieut. Ernest T. Dewald,
Assistant to the Military Attache,
American Legation,
Berne, Switzerland.

My dear Dewald:-

We are very glad to have your letter of February 17th, which will go down in the history of the College as the first letter of the Rutgers' men from Berlin.

What you have to say is deeply interesting, and we appreciate your kind thought in writing us.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

ERS/b

From Ernest T. Dewald '11

American Legation, Berne,

April 16, 1919.

Well, I'm off again on another adventure and very probably the last before I wend my steps towards the U.S.A. This time I go to Warsaw. The Colonel and I will leave here a week from today on the Allied Diplomatic Express which runs from Paris to Warsaw and Bucharest. Then the Colonel will leave me there to run an office and I shall probably stay there until the regular diplomatic representatives have been appointed to Poland. There is a Red Cross and a Food Commissioner there too. Warsaw is said to be a very gay place, and the Polish upper classes are among the most cultured of Europe. I met Prince Lubomierski last night, one of the best known of the Polish noblemen.

I am hoping that it won't last too long, for I am most anxious to be freed to go home by summer. But as long as there is something going on and I can be of service I am ready. I have also been recommended for a captaincy on account of my new appointment and I may get it any moment. But this is the least of my worries.

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So don't worry if you don't get mail regularly. It's irregular enough as it is, and being at Warsaw won't help hurry it any.