

317th Regiment, N. A.,

Camp Lee, Va.

Sept, 2, 1917.

Earl Reed Silvers, N

New Brunswick, N. J.,

Dear Silvers:

Information you desire is as follows

Harold W. Faint '17, Second Lieut. Infantry,
Officers' Reserve Corps.
stationed at the above station.

All the Rutgers men in camp that I
have seen today all have sent in this information
or expect to do so at once.

I think that I am right when I make
statement that all the Rutgers men at Fort Myer
were found capable of serving our country as
officers and have commissions. I thought that this
fact might prove of interest to you.

If in my present position there is
any thing that I can do for Rutgers during my
spare moments let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Harold W. Faint

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

~~Lt~~

Lt. Harold W. Faint

317th Infantry,

Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va.

Wednesday 4 P. M.

Dear Silvers:-

Since receiving your note
I haven't had time to breathe. Even
to-day, a half holiday I've had awkward
Squad drill for 2 hours and ran this off
in an hour. Cut it up any way you please
if the material is of any use.

Hoping you can use the dope & sorry
I haven't time to type it, I am
Sincerely yours
Harold W. Sant.

①

A Glimpse at Our National Army. Harold W. Faint, 17

In the midday heat of August 27th, a long train of old railroad cars creaked and groaned as the brakes gripped them. As the train ^{stopped} suddenly it ^{unpacked} "Camp Lee" out of the brakeman, and some ^{eighteen hundred} ~~1800~~ of Uncle Sam's new officers piled out. What did we see? A ~~beautiful~~ neat line of buildings with a fine green parade ground like the posts that have been the home of the Regular Army? No! A lot of small two-story buildings, frames of other buildings, dust from ^{the} ~~the~~ $\frac{2}{2}$ to $\frac{6}{6}$ inches deep and an endless chain of mules hauling lumber all over the camp, which we ~~never dreamed~~ ^{thought} ~~them~~ ^{not} would be finished until the war is over. So we were introduced to our work in a place that looked ^{now} ~~7 weeks ago~~ ^{previously} like a wilderness with a saw-mill in its midst.

Camp Lee, the largest of the ^{new} ~~the~~ cantonments, is now ^{almost} ~~about~~ complete in structure but ^{the} ~~the~~ grading of the drill grounds is still to be accomplished. ^{the} ~~the~~ The camp is built in the shape of a huge **U**. ^{with a circuit from end to end of 5 miles.} Near the arch of the **U** is a trolley line that runs from Petersburg, Va. to Hopewell, Va., the magic over-night city of Du Pont fame. From the car station to Petersburg is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to Hopewell 5 miles. Running parallel with the car line is a narrow 14 ft cement road between the two towns, on which exciting jitney scenes are as common as the flies hereabouts. The freight ^{service, part} ~~and as before~~ ^{of} the passenger service is handled by the Norfolk & Western R.R. on a spur which runs around ^{one-half} ~~the~~ the camp. These are the facilities of transportation.

(v) The total forces of all arms of the service ^{here stationed} are 50,000 men. ~~These~~ officers in charge are all Regular Army officers of long experience under command of Major General Cronkhite. The officers of the line are all men from the Officers' Reserve Corps who were at Fort Meyer, Va. ^{and} a number of enlisted men of the Regular Army have been assigned here to assist in the training of ~~the men~~. This constitutes the corps of instructors for the "selected" men.

At the date of this article, 5% of the men to compose this division of the National Army have arrived ~~here~~ and 150 of them are in ~~the~~ Company A ~~in which~~, 317th Infantry, to which company the writer is assigned. These men are from south western Virginia, and thorough bred Americans. Also they are "right smart" at handling a rifle, so we officers of ^{the} 317th Infantry claim that, adding military training and precision to their natural ability and physical endurance ^{of the men} ~~of our men~~, our regiment will be a factor of strength that the Germans haven't reckoned upon.

^{To prevent} ~~Beside~~ the intensive training from growing irksome, the War Dept has ordered Wednesday afternoons, and from Saturday noon to Sunday night as holidays, except for those who have special duties or who need additional instruction. ^{So much} for the men. But the more they

③ And in the service, the more they will realize as ~~the~~ officers ^{do} that the Army demands 24 hours a day, for even while ~~you~~ ^{one} sleeps ~~you~~ ^{he} will at least breathe "in cadence." One ^{with} compliment I might pay the men here. In all my dealings and observations, ^{of them} I have not seen a man surly or trying to shirk his duty. They are unreservedly patriots!

The question of ^{amusement for} 50,000 men, suddenly concentrated in what was formerly a wilderness, is a ^{big} great one. The Army Branch of the Y. M. C. A. ~~J. M. C. A. Army branch~~ has opened rooms containing paper, ink, victrolas, magazines, and pianos for free use, sells ~~them~~ stamps and cards, gets up amateur entertainments and athletic contests. Their encouragement of good clean boxing is strongly backed by the army for it means much in turning out men ~~for~~ ^{as} good bayonet fighters.

The amusements of Petersburg are few and entirely inadequate. The city has about 40,000 people and is an ordinary, conservative place. ^{100 days before the arrival of the next 40%} ~~the~~ merchants are only ^{now} ~~now~~ waking up, with but 10 days ^{before} ~~to the arrival of the~~ next 40% of men to what it means ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ a business way. And the Express companies ~~are~~ ^{are} swamped with merchandise, ~~also making little effort~~ ^{to properly handle} ~~on what even~~ ^{a job which is a Herculean task even for experienced men.} ~~for experienced men is an Herculean task.~~ Every merchant in town will tell you "Yes the invoice has been here 3 days but the stuff is buried in the express office."

(X) And so I might ramble on, but the time of a "shave-tail" lieutenant is utilized fully by his company commander and time forbids more.

But in closing let me say that one pleasure in my work in this regiment is to ~~to have work~~ ^{the association with} with Winton ~~and~~ Hand, 16, and Bowles 17, and to realize that many other regiments here and at other cantonments have as an essential part of their officers, Rutgers men serving as best they can the Stars & Stripes.

H. W. Faint '17.

Dear Sirs:

From First Lieutenant Harold W. Faint '17

September , 1917.

In the mid-day heat of August 27, a long train of old railroad cars creaked and groaned as the brakes gripped them. As the train suddenly stopped it jolted "Camp Lee" out of the brakeman, and some 1800 of Uncle Sam's new officers piled out. What did we see? A neat line of buildings with a fine green parade ground like the posts that have been the home of the Regular Army? No! A lot of small two-story buildings, frames of other buildings, dust from 2 to 6 inches deep, and an endless chain of mules hauling lumber all over the camp, which we thought then would not be finished until the war is over. So we were introduced to our work in a place that looked two weeks previously like a wilderness with a saw-mill in its midst.

Camp Lee, the largest of the 16 cantonments, is now almost complete in structure, but the grading at the drill grounds is still to be accomplished with a circuit of 5 miles from end to end. The camp is built in the shape of a huge U. Near the arch of the U is a trolley line that runs from Petersburg, Va., to Hopewell, Va., the magic three-night city of DuPont fame. From the car station to Petersburg is 3 1/2 miles; to Hopewell 5 miles. Running parallel with the car line is a narrow 14-ft. cement road between the two towns, on which exciting jitney scenes are as common as the flies hereabouts. The freight service and part of the passenger service is handled by the Norfolk and Western R. R. on a spur which runs around one-half the camp. These are the facilities of transportation.

The total forces of all arms of the service here stationed number 50,000 men. Those in charge are all Regular Army Officers of long experience, under command of Major General Cronkhite. The officers of the line are men from the Officers' Reserve Corps who were at Fort Myer, Va., and a number of enlisted

men of the Regular Army have been assigned here to assist in training. This constitutes the corps of instructors for the "selected" men.

At the date of this article (September 15) 5 per cent of the men to compose this division of the National Army have arrived and 150 of them are in Company A, 317th Infantry, to which company the writer is assigned. These men are from southwestern Virginia and throughbred Americans. Also they are "right smart" at handling a rifle, so we officers of the 317th Infantry claim that, adding military training and precision to the natural ability and physical endurance of the men, our regiment will be a factor of strength that the Germans haven't reckoned upon.

To prevent the intensive training from growing irksome, the War Department has ordered Wednesday afternoon, and from Saturday noon to Sunday night as holidays, except for those who have special duties or who need additional instruction.

So much for the men. But the more they are in the service, the more they will realize, as the officers do, that the Army demands 24 hours a day, for even while one sleeps he will at least breathe "in cadence." One compliment I might pay the men here. In all my dealings with them and observations of them, I have not seen a man surly or trying to shirk his duty. They are unreservedly patriots!

The question of amusement for 50,000 men, suddenly concentrated in what was formerly a wilderness, is a big one. The Army Branch of the Y. M. C. A. has opened rooms containing paper, ink, magazines, victrolas, and pianos for free use; sells stamps and cards, gets up amateur entertainments and athletic contests. Their encouragement of good clean boxing is strongly backed by the army, for it means much in turning out men as good bayonet fighters.

The amusements of Petersburg are few and entirely inadequate. The city has about 40,000 people and is an ordinary, conservative place. Ten days before the arrival of the next 40 per cent of the draft quota, its merchants are only now making up to what it means in a business way. And the express

companies, swamped with merchandise, are making little effort to properly handle a job which is a Herculean task even for experienced men. Every merchant in town will tell you, "Yes, the invoice has been here three days but the stuff is buried in the express office."

And so I might ramble on, but the time of a "shave-tail Lieutenant" is utilized fully by his company commander, and time forbids more.

But in closing let me say that one pleasure in my work in this regiment is the association with Minton '16, Hand '16, and Bowles '17, and to realize that many other regiments here and at other cantonments have as an essential part of their officers, Rutgers men serving as best they can the Stars and Stripes.

Baseball—The Army Game.





POST CARD



CORRESPONDENCE.

**3RD BN., M. G. T. C.
CAMP HANCOCK. GA.**

MAY 26 1918

ADDRESS



Note above address,
Due to transfer
couldn't reach H B
for the "Day." *L. Harold W. Faint*

*Mr. Earl Silvers
Director War Service Bureau
Rutgers College,
New Brunswick
N. J.*

HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL OFFICERS' TRAINING SCHOOL
MACHINE GUN TRAINING CENTER
CAMP HANCOCK, GA.

July 6th 1918.

Dear Silvers:

This is my weekOend on duty, and it being Saturday night I thought I would drop you a line. The immediate cause is the weekly bulletin arriving about a half an hour ago, in the evening mail. The address was my old one, and I am now at the above address as Personnel Officer of the school. The work is intensely interesting, but the one feature that I do not like is the fact that the job is entirely one of administration and indoors. I am just melting away in the hot office with no exercise, but some one has this work to do and it by some strange happening was handed to me.

I was eating mess about two weeks ago, and a new arrival, a second lieutenant came over from the next table and asked me if he had ever seen me in New Brunswick, N.J. I replied "Yes" and he turned out to be Breece, 1918. He had joined the Army in the regular service last year in the spring, and had just reported here to Camp Hancock, for his first assignment as a commissioned officer. So there is another example of Rutgers, cause you cannot keep a ~~xxx~~ Rutgers man down. Furthermore I was reading the roster of candidates assigned to this school from Camp Meade, and came across the name of John D. Lyons. It occurred to me that he might be the '18 man that I knew "On the Banks". So I at once held up the wheels of progress and sent an orderly over to the 3rd Company to get the Lyons mentioned to report to the Personnel Officer at once. And sure enough it was Johnny. So together with Co nkling (tthe famous Touts DKE '15) here a 1st Lt in the Gas School, and Heitkamp my old pal of Freshman days, we are going to hold a Rutgers banquet for the sake of old times.

Certainly do regret the loss of Jimmy Scarr. He got to be a better friend to me at Fort Myer than ever before cause he was in the same company with me. Reminds me that Fannie Scarr was with me at Camp Lee until I left for here.

This camp is devoted entirely to machine gun training and we have an "esprit de corps" (if my French isn't too rusty) in this branch of the service that I am becoming quite bigoted at the fact that I am a Machine Gun Officer. It seems that the policy of the Government is too produce the highest type of discipline in this new branch of the service. I might ramble on about the camp and the work, but I have several other letters that I want to get out tonight so I will close,

As ever sincerely yours, and at your service,

Harold W. Lamb

July 11, 1948

Lieut. Harold W. Faint,
Hdqtrs, Central Officers' Training School,
Machine Gun Training Center,
Camp Hancock, Ga.

Dear Faint:

I am glad that you wrote your letter of July 6th, as you have been one of my standbys and I had not heard from you for a considerable time. It is splendid to hear your news about the Rutgers men and it was especially welcome as I had lost track of both Breece and Conkling. Let me know about your Rutgers banquet as soon as it comes off.

With all good wishes.

Cordially yours,

ERS/W



Camp Lee, Va.,

Oct. 31, 1918.

Dear Silvers:

Your announcement is at hand. The idea is a fine one. I am enclosing the card with my address on it.

The October copy of the Alumni Quarterly has not reached me yet. Possibly it is not out yet? If not, I will call for it in person on Nov. 3rd.

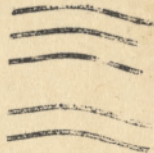
By some good fortune I managed to get leave for this coming weekend and would be glad to see you about this matter *War News Bulletin* Saturday. I will be at the Lambda Chi Alpha House from 2.29, except during the football game, until 11.58 PM.

Wishing you luck on this new task and assuring you that it will be a pleasure to men like myself to read anything that comes from the "Banks," I am

Yours sincerely,

Harold W. Fink

POST



Earl Reed Silvers

Rutgers College

New Brunswick, N. J.

12-4-18

Dear Silvers:—

Your letter has just come
and I thought I would reply
right away. Am busy now
closing up this school. However
will be in to see you soon.

Harold W. Faint '17

Harold W. Faint,
1st Lt. Inf., U. S. A.
Personnel Adjutant