



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

Private

Irving Y. Gidley

43 Co. 5th Regiment

U. S. Marines

American Expeditionary

Via New York

N.Y.

Forces

Mr. Earl Root Silver
Alumni House
New Brunswick
N.J.

Dear Sir:-

I haven't sufficient exact data to give report of my own War Record. So I have forwarded it to him.

He is in Germany with the 2nd Division Army of Occupation. His record is extremely interesting including service on the front in many important engagements. It was continued over a period of 7 months, after the drive of Mar. 21, then he spent 3 months in an Officers Training School.

I hope you will be patient for as the pamphlet had to be forwarded to him it will be

some time before he can
get return on it back to you
Yours sincerely

C. B. Gidley Stevenson
Southbound Brook
New Jersey

Irving Y. Gidley
Class 1919

AMERICAN

Y. M. C. A.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

COPY //

Jan 9, 1919

Dear Silvers;

Hope you
don't think that
I have forgotten about
old Rutgers because
I haven't written before.
For the last three
months I have
certainly missed
those Gussy letters
sent to the Rutgers
men in service.
You see I was
sent here to an
officers training
school and on the

of my mail has
been forwarded and
of course not knowing
my new address
it was impossible
to get any mail
from the War Service
Bureau.

When I enlisted
in the Marines a
little over a year and
a half ago I never
dreamed of the
experiences and
events I was to
go through. Of course
I knew that I was
going to war but
did not have even
a dim realization



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of what it would
be like. Six weeks
in a recruit camp
at Philadelphia and
then France where
we underwent nine
months of rigid
training in a little
town called Daulain
in the Vosges. Last
March we were all
lazier and expectant
the order had at
last come that we
were going to the
front. Every body

was in the best of
spirits - we were to
get a crack at the
Him so we all thought.

About the middle
of march we relieved
the French in a
quiet sector near
Verden, but what
a disappointment!
It was only an endless
routine of guard
duty, living in dug-
outs amidst the
mud and rats.

A little artillery
activity now and
then with an occasional
raid ~~broke~~ ^{occasional} the

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~~monstrous, repulsive and~~
~~then.~~ Get down into
a deep cellar some
time, turn about
fifty large (extra
large & shandray) rats
loose, cover yourself
with a couple dirty
blankets well filled
with cooties, light
a little string of
candle and try
to sleep. Try the
experiment in March
preferably with
no ptou and you

have a picture of
dugout life. After
three months of
this we moved
way back of the
line for about a
week. At that
time the Boche
were shoving all
along the line. They
almost got through
at Chateau Thierry
but our division
was sent down
there and there
we found out what
war was. No
trenches, only holes

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which we dug
ourselves into afford
some shelter from
the almost constant
artillery fire. For
thirty-three days we
fought first checking
the march then
starting him back
where he came from.
On June the eleventh
we went over the
top my first trip.
It was pretty in
twenty minutes

we had reached
our objective, killed
several hundred
boschs and taken
over a thousand
prisoners. The
next day we again
went over, but the
fighting was more
stubborn, in fact
it was the stubbornest
fight I have been
in unless it be
the last attack
in the Champagne.
Those scraps were
merely battalion
attacks one battalion
at a time going over
but that did not

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make them the
less real. On
July 15th we again
went over this time
in a great drive -
Foch's blow to shatter
out the Chateau-Thierry
salient. For three
days we pushed ahead
advancing about
eleven kilometers.
We were then relieved
and sent back
for a much needed
rest. This rest con-

sisted of taking over
a quiet sector near
Pont-a-Mousson in
August.

September found
us again at it where
in the swift drive
to close up the
St. Michel salient
the second division
captured the town
of Thiaucourt. Last
of all, that is far
more over again
attached in the
famous Meuse-Argonne
battle our front
being in the Cham-
pagne.
Immediatly fol

knowing that battle
I was sent down
here to train for
an officer. Now
that the war
is over no more
commissions are
to be granted but
those who graduated
will get a certifi-
cate of eligibility.

Since I have
been over here
have met but
few Rutgers men.
Hutchinson who

I believe graduated
in 1915 was a
second lieutenant
in my old battalion.
He was wounded
in the last battle
but I believe not
very seriously.

I graduated Parson
1919 a second Lt
in the artillery. It
was just before the
St Michel drive.

It only had a few
minutes to talk
to each other.

Regards to all
the boys back
in old Rutgers
and tell them

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I expect to be
back with them
next fall. I hope
I will be there for
commencement.

I'll write again
telling more of the
news and hope
to get some news
from old Putgers soon.
Those Star service
letters are certainly
interesting and
very much appreciated.

My address will

still be the old
one because school
close in about a
week and it is
hard to say where
I will go.

Sincerely,
Sgt. V. J. Gidley

43rd Co 5th Regt.

U. S. Marines

A. E. Jr.

France.

January 31, 1919

Sergt. Irving Y. Gidley,
43rd Co., 5th Regiment,
U.S. Marines,
Am. E.F., France

Dear Sergeant Gidley:-

Your letter of January 9th was one of the most interesting the War Service Bureau has ever received, and I am going to print parts of it in the War Book which we are planning to publish sometime within the next year. If you ever find the hours hanging heavily on your hands, please write us something more of your experiences.

We are hoping, with you, that September will find you back again in college.

Cordially yours,

VP

GRAND QUARTIER GENERAL

des

Armees Francaises de l'Est

ETAT-MAJOR

BUREAU DU PERSONNEL

ORDRE No 13.561 "D." (EXTRAIT)

(Decorations)

Après approbation du General Commandant en Chef les Forces expedition-
naires Americaines en France, le Marechal de France, Commandant en
Chef les Armees Francaises de l'Est, cite a l'Ordre de la DIVISION;

.....

Sergeant Irving, Y. GIDLEY, Mle. 117.353, Compagnie "F", 2 Bataillon
du 5 Regiment de Marine Americain;

"Le 3 Octobre 1918, pres de BLANC-MONT, a fait preuve d'un cou-
rage et d'un devouement remarquables en organisant une position
conquise, sous un violent barrage ennemi, contribuant pour une
large part au succes de son unite."

.....

Au Grand Quartier General, le 14 Fevrier 1919.

Le Marechal,

Pour Extrait Conforme:

Commandant en Chef les Armees Francaises de

Le Lieutenant-Colonel,

l'Est,

Chef du Bureau du Personel,

PETAIN

(Signed)

SECOND DIVISION

CITATION

Sergeant Irving Y. Gidley, Fifth Marines.

For distinguished and exceptional gallantry
at Blanc Mont on Oct. 3, 1918 in the operations
of the

American Expeditionary Forces
in testimony thereof and as an expression of
appreciation of his valor I award him this
citation

Awarded on June 25th, 1919.

John A. Lyering
Major General, U. S. M. C.
Commanding.