

139 Wakenane Ave
Newark N.J.
August 5,

Mr. Earl R. Silvers.

In reply to your query received today;

I am drafted in Division No. 8, City of Newark

I'll be glad if you can do anything toward getting me placed in a department where I will fit. I of course expect to gain some preference on account of having had training in tactics and rifle range work and am wondering if a letter from Lieut. Ahrends would be of any value. If you believe it would and know where he is stationed I'd be glad to hear from you.

With best personal regards, I am

Very truly yours

Lawrence Ahrends, Lt.

September 6, 1917

Mr. Jacob W. Groendyke

139 Wakeman Ave.,

Newark, N.J.

Dear Jake:-

I am sending your name to Washington with the recommendation that you be placed in some form of work for which your college course has fitted you. We have lost track of Lieutenant Ahrends so I am afraid we cannot induce him to write a letter for you. I doubt very much if it would do much good at the present time.

Sincerely yours,



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

Company "C" 312 Infantry - 1st Battalion
Camp Dix N.J.

10-30-17

Dear Reed: Your forwarded letter received today. I
was drafted from Fort Newark came here Sept. 29,
was made corporal October 27. Your War
Service Bureau shows fine spirit and originality I'm
sure we all will receive much benefit from it.
Reed here's something you can do right now for me,
viz, have 2 good seats at the game with wva. on
Nov. 3 reserved for me at Registrars office tell
2 P.M. on that day. I'll call before then and pay
for same - Best personal regards. J.W. Groen dy K.

November 1st. 1917.

Mr. J. W. Groendyke,
Company C.,
312th. Infantry,
First Battery,
Camp Dix, N.J.

My dear Jake:-

Thank you for your good word about the War Service Bureau. I am taking up the matter of the tickets this morning and will have them reserved for you in the Registrar's Office until 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon. If, by any chance, the office is close, I shall be waiting outside the field at the main entrance and will have the tickets.

Hastily yours,



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Earl Reed Silvers Esq.

New Brunswick

N.J.

Rutgers College

11/11/17

Dear Reed.

I was out of luck to
some degree Sat. I arrived
at the gate at 2:30 and
inquired at the window and of
General about the tickets and
you. They were both chock full
of ignorance. However I succeeded
in buying two seats where the
view was not half bad.

You did all you could I'm
sure and I do appreciate it
a lot.

The game was a dazzler.
The letters are coming regularly,
and are a good binder between
the boys and the college I'm sure
Yours
Green dyke



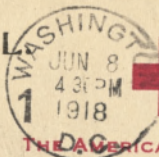
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Earl Reed Silvers Esq.
new Bouns with
n J.
Rutgers College.

5/18/18

Please discontinue all mail
to me until further notice
Things have been so dizzy that
all good intentions in regard to keep-
ing you informed of my whereabouts have failed.
I am yours truly '68.

SOLDIERS' MAIL

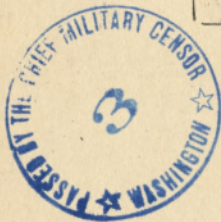


THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY.

Soldiers Mail

THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS ONLY.



Earl Reed Silvers
In Rutgers College
New Brunswick
N.J.

THE SHIP ON WHICH I SAILED HAS ARRIVED
SAFELY OVERSEAS.

Name

J W Groendyke

Organization

Co E 312 Inf.

American Expeditionary Forces.

For God, For King & For Country.



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL,
H.M. THE KING



PATRON:
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to Company Bat. Regt.

Stationed at

July 5 1915

(1)

Dear Reed. - So far as I can recall our extensive correspondence has not been reopened since I notified you that a change was about to take place in my address. Well since then we have become somewhat widely separated. We had the usual "inconveniences" of a troop ship coming over, however we have been quite thoroughly inoculated against fretfulness and fatigue so we enjoyed the trip a lot.

Right after getting clear of harbor gun crews were appointed to work with the gunner of the boat. Since I looked more like a gun-man than a gunner they chose me for sergeant of the crew and gun trainer.

For God, For King & For Country.



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL,
H.M. THE KING.



PATRON:
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to Company Bat. Regt.
Stationed at (2) 191

We had only one affair with Subs. This occurred on a calm Sunday night just after mess time. Several boats attacked our fleet but none of us was hit. One or two of the enemy were sunk by depth charges. When one is below decks and hears the reverberations of these charges against the side plates of the ship and he has not experienced the sensation before; it immediately makes him think of a cold salt bath.

We are in a very pretty section of France so far as natural charm is concerned. It has its drawbacks in a great scarcity of wood and water. You are probably well fed up on scenery as that is about all the poor soldier can tell.

For God, For King & For Country.



PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL,
H.M. THE KING

Y.M.C.A.

H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE



PATRON:
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to Company Bat. Regt. 191
Stationed at

(3)

in his letters, so I'll not burden you with descriptions of wild rose and honeysuckle hedges, and wheat fields mottled with great large scarlet poppies.

Here every building is battered flat, its occupants have fled - leaving a great part of their household goods and farm implements. It's quite pathetic to see the old house dog and the stove cat come back and beg food from the soldier as he sits in front of the great, wide, open fire place in which the ancient iron settle burns. How many peace full Christians legs must have burned in that great chimney place as a merry crowd assembled around in the stone floored kitchen!

For God, For King & For Country.



Y.M.C.A.



H.M. FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PATRON
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL,
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON:
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.M. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to Company Bat. Regt.

Stationed at

(4)

191

Crops of splendid wheat, oats, rye and hops stand in the field and as I write this our 5.9 and 18 pounders are arguing with Jerry's 7.7's as to who shall harvest these crops. The fine courage and hopeful spirit of our splendid allies here however, leave me but one conclusion.

I'm extremely well, army rations and billets of various descriptions. (This abode is a hop kiln) seem to be no wise injurious so far. I've been sent to some more British school here for instruction in my work, Intelligence, this I enjoy greatly. It keeps one's mind alive when conditions are sometimes very dull. My address Recd. is Co "E" of the same

(over)

(5)

Regiment as in Camp Dix. Simply put
A.E.F via Mex. and it will get
me.

Out on no man's land Friday I "ratted"
a few dead ones and found a couple of
characteristic souvenirs which I believe
I can mail, if so you will get
me soon for your collection. How is
the College Red? and how is the
War Bureau Director and his family?
With all best wishes—

Jack W. Croendyke '12

58 From J. Groendyke,

July 5, 1918.

As I sit here in the scanty straw of this evacuated barn, it calls to mind the song "Fiddle and I" waking up the cats and owls, well there are no owls here, the nights are not quiet enough for their kind of work. But as the saying is over here, "its not too bad." In all the area here abouts the villages and farm houses are shelled to brick dust as at this point a very determined enemy drive was followed up by a vigorous counter attack, so what ever Jerry left standing the Allied shells reduced to dust. Around the ruins of the old houses we sometimes greet the old house dog who has wandered back to his old home, and a few pigs or chickens which could not be carried away are left at some places. Farm implements and household goods lie in disorder around the premises just as the stanch people left as they fled from before the invader. Splendid crops of shoulder high, wheat oats and hops are standing in the fields. I wonder who will gather them.

Flowers grow by the roadside in spite of the trend of the dough boys' hob-nailed shoes and in the gardens, currants hang in scarlet clusters waiting the hand of a sex that is no where seen. A woman's voice or a child's laughter are sounds that are never heard in the advance zones.

As far as the eye can reach there is nought but ruins. But there is no lack for entertainment here for while I write this sentence probably 10 or 15 big shells go whizzing over some goin' and some comin'. They say that every time an American artilleryman fires a round he repeats "Now Kaiser count your men."

Yesterday the 4th was duly celebrated here. All was decently quiet till nine o'clock in the morning when Jerry let go a perfect hailstorm of shells of all calibers. In every barrage of this order it is interesting to see how a certain sector is isolated and boxed off, every road of approach is laid off to a nicety with H. E. shells. Well everybody back as far as BattinHq. stood to with full enjoyment yesterday, in the midst of it he mixed in a lot of gas too. He's thoughtful. After about 40 minutes of his spree he resumed the position of "as you were."

Every night from about six to nine we have an airplane exhibition on planes go over observing and then after we quit he usually sends over one or two while all the anti aircraft within range pop away - doing little damage aside from putting a lot of big black ink spots on a nice clean blue sky. A few days ago in a fight though we saw a Jerry come down in flames. I'm surely getting a lot of my old intelligence work up here and it's not seemed handed either. Its nice and cool here and I'm feeling fine.

July 31, 1918.

Corp. Jacob W. Groendyke,

Co E, 312th Infantry,

A.E.F. via N.Y.

Dear Jake;—

It was surely good to hear from you again. We haven't had much to do with each other since that football game last fall, and your letter was very welcome. I hope that you are receiving the War Bureau circulars and an occasional Quarterly. If not, drop me a line and I'll ship some to you.

The college is going along slowly these days. We have only a fair outlook for next year, but that is to be expected. The War Service Bureau continues to be busy, and the Silvers family is O.K.

Good luck to you, Jake. I am looking forward to the time when I can see you here on the campus again. May it come speedily.

Cordially yours,

J. V. Groenbyke
U.S. Army

Soldiers Mail

POST CARD



Earl Reed Silvers

Rutgers College

New Brunswick, N. J.



J. V. Groenbyke
2nd Lt.

Sept. 29, 1918

Dear Reed. Am resting this card on the July Quarterly
which has been greatly enjoyed. Presume football is
receiving its share of attention now. We had a game
arranged here with teams having a lot of all A's but
a schedule difficulty interfered. Have been to school
"as usual" and am now commissioned. Saw Worth
Foley two months ago, and Pith yesterday. Every
thing is going fine. Will you give my best
regards to Reginald Martin. Sincerely yours.

OK Jacobby Re.
Jacobby Re.
2nd Lt U.S. Army.

Jacobby Re.

WAR DEPARTMENT
EIGHTH DISTRICT SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD

LEGAL TITLE "LOCAL BOARD FOR
DIVISION No. 8, CITY OF NEWARK
STATE OF NEW JERSEY"

MORRISON C. COLYER
Chairman and Executive Officer

JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN
Secretary

DR. RICHARD H. DIEFFENBACH
Medical Member

HOWARD H. GROENDYKE
Chief Clerk

ELIOT SCHOOL
721 SUMMER AVENUE
NEWARK, N. J.

OFFICE HOURS:
9 A. M. to 12 M.
1 P. M. to 4 P. M.
Except Saturday Afternoons
and Legal Holidays.

Phone, Branch Brook 9427

October 17, 1918.

Mr. E. R. Silvers.

Dear Sir:- By request of my brother Jacob W. Groendyke, I am forwarding to you under separate cover a belt buckle taken by him off a dead hun in no mans land on July 5, 1918. He was there to gain experience in scouting. On July 25 he wrote that due to his performance on the field he had been picked with 34 others to attend Officers Training School, which would probably last through Aug., Sept. and Oct. It is the 3rd. series for the First Army Corps. I had word from him two weeks ago and he was still there. I hope he may be spared to return and tell us the details of his experience and of the buckle.

Respectfully

His address

Howard H. Groendyke

Jacob Walter Groendyke
Co. #4 A. C. S.

139 Wakeman Ave.

A. P. O. #714

Newark, N. J.

American Expeditionary Force
Via New York

October 30 1918

Mr. Howard H. Groendyke,
139 Wakeman Ave
Newark, N.J.

Dear Mr. Groendyke:

I acknowledge with appreciation
your letter of October 17. The buckle from your
brother has been received and is a splendid addition
to our collection in the college library. I have
heard very frequently from Jake, and in his letters
he seems to be both well and happy. It is good to know
that he has won his commission.

Very sincerely yours,

ERS/HWG

March 28th, 1919.

Mr. Jacob W. Groendyke,
139 Wakeman Ave.,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Jake:-

I am glad to know that you are out of the service,
and once more back in the good old U. S. A.

Be sure to drop into see me at the earliest possible
moment, as I am anxious to have a chat with you.

With kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

ERS/b

May 23, 1919.

Mr. Jacob J. Groendyke,

Monmouth Junction, N. J.

My dear Mr. Groendyke:-

Rutgers College is planning to publish a book which will contain letters from our alumni and undergraduates who saw service in the Army or Navy of the United States. If you have any letters from Mr. Jacob W. Groendyke which you think may be of interest in such a publication, we shall be grateful for them. Anything you send us will be carefully preserved and returned to you within two weeks of their receipt.

We are very anxious to make our War Book as complete a record as possible, and will appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President.

ERS/b

June 13th, 1919.

Mr. Jacob J. Groendyke,
Monmouth Junction,
New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Groendyke:-

Thank you very much for the enclosed
letter from your son, which is very interesting.

I am returning it to you herewith.

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President.

ERS/b