

9/5/17

My dear Earl;

Your circular
received in re alumni
in U.S. Service.

William H. Brown
1st Lieut. Medical, Officer's
Reserve Corps. doing
Roentgenological Work.

In your personal defi-
cation would say that I am
still in N. Y. & expect to leave
about end of Sept. for point
unknown.

Reminds me to Mrs^{Earl}
& liked me as Er
Bill

November 1st. 1917.

Lieutenant William G. Herrman,

X Ray Work,

Cornell Medical College,

New York City.

Dear Bill:-

The West Virginia Game is in New Brunswick
and not in Newark as was reported in the New York papers.
I will look for you here on Saturday. We shall send you
a list of the Rutgers men in service next week and you can
then check up all your friends in the Army and Navy.

Yours in the bonds,

June 10
1918.

Lieut. W. C. Herrman
Camp Crane,
M. O. U.
Allentown, Pa

Dear Bill:

I was glad to get your postal and find out where you are now. Lieutenant Rowland was in Rahway last week and told us that you expected to go across at any time, so it was something of a surprise to hear that you are located in Allentown. I hope that everything is going alright with you and Marjory. If she is still in Brooklyn you might drop her a line and tell her to come out to Rahway for a few days with us. Both Edythe and I would be mighty glad to have her.

Yours in the bonds,

ERS/W



Herrmann, W G
"WITH THE COLORS"



Dear Sir:

Yours of recent date
arrived on our side. H. Roland
gave you the correct idea. Camp
Liang is merely a stopping place
We expect to leave for Paris
any day. O'Hara has been
photographed, finger printed, had
baggage labeled etc. Our farewell
dinner to the Co. has been
given and the Embarkation officer
has been here.

Will you please send me
immediately the address of the
American University Union in
Paris?

Marjorie is going back to Pfd with
me to - tomorrow and Sunday. We
both thank you for your kind offers.
Yours

Give our very kindest to "Mrs. Sil + think of me often" there; keep my letters coming in the fall.

They visit and my address both while at Camp Crane + later unless further notice will be

St. W. G. H. - M. R. C.
Mobile Operating Unit #1
Section #4
(Camp Crane etc) or
(A. E. F. France)

Good-bye + best of luck
to you + all the boys wherever
+ "God be with us till we meet
again!"

Y. I. T. B.
Bill

P. S. Unit has 60 doctors + 50 nurses
+ 215 men, 40 big truck + trailers
+ 40 Ford buses + is divided into
5 sections moving from Comm base
to considered a prize outfit + the Surgeon
General's Regt.

June 22,
1918.

Lieut. William G. Herrman,
Medical Corps,
Camp Crane,
Allentown, Pa.

Dear Bill:

Somehow or other your letter just arrived and I am hastening to answer it this morning in the hope that you will receive this brief note before you go across.

The address of the American University Union is, Place du Theatre, Francais, Paris, in the building which was formerly the royal palace hotel. If I had only known you were in Plainfield I could have dropped in for a brief good-by, as we rode past your house in the car at about four o'clock. It would have meant a good deal to me to have seen you before you went.

Good luck and God bless you.

Yours in the bonds,

ERS/W



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



Dear Sir:

Daughter born — at 6 P.M.
night 11th. Jan. Barton
light hair & blue eyes. Mother & daughter
fine.

When you get this I will be
aboard or at least probably — I have
left off date & will not mail when
I have finished but leave that to
others. However best tears up after
reading.

Please publish news of birth
in quarterly at next issue.

My address when I go
abroad will be

while operating unit #1
Division of Surgery
Med. Dept. U.S.A.
New York Free Press
via London.

Love Bye & God Bless
Bill

July 10, 1918

Lieut. William C. Herrman
Mobile Operating Unit # 1
Division of Surgery,
Med. Dept. U.S.A.
A. E. F. via London.

Dear Bill:

This letter will probably reach you in France and you will have been a father for quite a while before the mail catches up with you. However I want to send my sincere congratulations and to extend to you over the waters my right hand of fellowship. I am glad that the baby was born before you sailed and that you were able to see her. I sincerely trust that Margery has come through with flying colors. I am going to try to write you a letter at least two or three times a month, and hope that you will drop me a line whenever you can find a few minutes to spare.

Yours in the bonds of Delta Phi,

ERS/W



222615

DRILLING, U. S. A. A. C., ALLENTOWN, PA. *address Camp Crane M. O. V.*

POST



CARD



Address Only

Mr. E. R. Silvers,
Rutgers College,
New Brunswick
N.J.
Stillman

Dear friends,
ailey at Camp
Crane, met the mobile
Operating Unit #1
of K. Rayman, made
of each surgeon
interested in the
needed + that soon.
Bill Kneuman
Berman

121 St. N.E. Herman
mobile operat. unit #1
A. E. F.



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



July 19, 1918

My dear Sil:

Remember when you fellows get abroad to write us. Send pictures, souvenirs etc. By this time you know we can comply with the first with varying degrees of facility but the latter two specifications are a right nerve difficult. So here goes on the first.

Before I talk about La Belle France. Did I write you about Jean Barton Herman who will be 3 weeks old on the 21st? Some girl - looks like her daddy - who had the pleasure of seeing her for three hours. Just suppose that had been your experience with Earl Jr! That's how I feel 'nough said.

We are situated in a beautiful valley in a hilly section. There is a quaint little old village nearby with

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

its inevitable Church & clock tower
which right among them the official
prison. There are other organizations
nearby which contain hundreds of
my friends but as yet I have yet
discovered a Nutgerman. This
is our headquarters from which
we shoot up to the front series
and back street.

There are a number of Bosch
prisoners nearby building rooms
things & several despicable pris-
oners officers.

At night we can see on the horizon
gun flashes when a front movement
is under way.

Occasionally a plane sails over
head & a biplane was photographed
us.

We are to-day in some observation
work further towards the big cities.
Our trip on? On a beautiful big
boat - quiet as a mill pond - compar-
itively undisturbed & a rapid trip
overland.

By the way, let me describe a rest
camp. You get off a boat or train where



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



you have been cooped & camped
for days & nights usually in the rain
put on heavy packs & kites carry-
ing an overcoat etc. march uphill
3-5 miles to a bit of mud & hill
top, eat some bully beef, stay there
for hrs. march back to where you
camp from officially fully rested
or perhaps you stay over night with
a couple of Quincy Hankel Company.
To get complete rest you sleep
in the mud in your best clothes after
which you don't give a damn & you
been dying to whether you are a
Presbyterian or a Congregationalist.

Probably my mother has spoken
of the cars & engines over there but
I can't help taking a crack at
them. They bump along like rocking
chairs & screech with a steam whistle
like a hysterical girl. We traveled in
picnic compartments at a dangerous

rate of speed - if you were running I
think you would break their record
the new ride 4. hours - 40 years!
as you know. But the English train!
O God to have a set on a switch back
near Brooklyn. "Hail abroad - wind your
'ead"!

There is a quaint little allied Cemetery
on the side of the hill near by - British
French, Russian, Mohammedans with
the feet toward the East & a ☿ on the
head & tail boards to keep out the infidel
& God Bless them Americans includ-
ing one here.

O'm out of practice since the days
he used to write "ye column" per
diem - partly true but mainly d-
lips. I can't get into my stride on
the D. L. so will close with the truth.

Regards to all Rutgers men
understanding the profs & to all Direct
Ornaments

Y. I. T. B

Biel Herman

101 St. M. P. C.

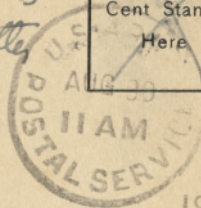
Mobile Operat. Unit #1

Amer Exp. Force

Corp. E.S. Neumann
Hg. Co 300 F.A
American & Foreign
POST CARD

Soldiers'
Settle

Place Two
Cent Stamp
Here



Earl Reed Silvers

Rutgers College

New Brunswick, N. J.



Corporal Edgar George Herrmann
Headquarters Company
306 Field Artillery
American Ex. Forces.

OK. Lt. 306 F.A.

101st Western
mobile operating unit #1
APO 731

8/24/48

Dear Lil: I have those few minutes you refer to since I am convalescing from a little dysentery.

Have been over here now about 6 mks and the 1st bit of mail to reach me was all circular war bureau letters. That much for your efficiency.

I've seen all of the common sights to be seen such as damaged & undamaged equipment of all kinds, wounded & unwounded Boche-trophies etc. but I haven't done much hard work but I can tell its coming.
I think I drop you a

Postal from Tours. Beautiful
old city with its museum with
Cathedral + Chateaux.

By the way in one of your
letters you speak of going
to the Univ. Union + complaining
that not enough Budgets were
registered. Although Paris is
a veritable Babylon it is just
as hard to enter for the annex
as heaven is for the provincial
rich man. So kick at us we
sign if we could.

I suppose I have a daughter
but it all seems a myth and
I can't even remember much
what she looks like. Don't breathe
that to me. but I was so tired
+ all babies look alike at 12 hrs
of age. Do I look so? Ask me!
Ask Jane! You in the Bonds
+ with the deepest regards to you 3.
Bill

1st St. W. Herriman
mobile operating unit #1 9/14/18

My dear Sir:

Will so I remember
your solemn + important instructions
to write you occasionally of my
experiences. In the quality you
said of in fiction but interest
they were worthy of that papers
I do not remember that you
hoped particularly on their truth-
fulness that is easy to under-
stand being one that acquainted
with your effusions. For working
addicted myself to keep to the letter
unless convinced it was unprofitable
I have written until I had a little kind
scenery + impressions of the French
people - about which God knows

enough has been written - to speak
of. C+ is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ months
since I kissed my wife & the old
baby good bye. (By the way I have
my own ideas about the enthusiasm
with which you ask for letters from
boys in service - you say they greatly
as it has put me at heart but I suspect
you can do for phrases & incidents
to be used in dashing off some
heart throbs when you want an
extra hundred - Well C+ is just
given you an excellent one even if it
has been off repeated in the past &
yes. But this yours probably
used it many times already)

I can't truthfully speak of
stomach & guts in the way over.

It is said we were attacked
the last night out but as I slept
thru it all, trusting to Uncle
Sam's destroyers, and there was
no commotion at all, I'll pass
up to tipas disquietingly quiet
on one of the world's largest boats -
no not that one.

After loafing long enough to
be fed upon scenery & peasants
I worked & observed in a French
Hospital in Tours. There for the
first time I saw war surgery
& pathology in very truth. I chief
note you several pages on my
professional experiences but since
you turned down a surgeon's
career I'll deny you. Of the

evenings we had a chance to
inspect the Cafes, sample the
wines and converse in French.
During the middle of the day while
the Frenchman napped we
looked at Cathedrals, public
buildings - Chateaux (see
Baedeker). Among these Charlemagne's
town because of its authenticity
was the most interesting & syndical
French family life as the town
entirely unmov'd by their historic
surroundings.

By this time you have ^{received}
some that from our great victory
It was my good fortune to be
detached from any organization
which had not yet been completely

3
fitted out, and ^{to be} sent up with
the Yale Unit some days before
the push. We were on the alert
constantly for the start because,
for a hospital, we were pretty
close & entirely uncamouflaged
lying on a bald hill along side
an important ~~road~~ ^{road}. Every time
a Boche crossed the line we
could see him & hear & see the
archies. We expected some ^{our}
compliments but again, as
to ~~stick~~ to the line, we came.

However we did hear the opening
of the orchestra which kept up for
hours.

By & by our wounded came
in & we kept busy for 48 hrs

but our lives advanced so rapidly + our casualties were so light that we quickly ran out of ~~rocks~~ ^{ammunition} for the fellows concerned.

The morale of the wounded men was magnificent. Not a sound escaped them - you could hardly conceive of their flinching pain. True and again a wounded man awaiting operations would rouse up in the night a new aim and ask "Buddy how far were the boys when they got you"? The wounds were not all as serious either.

We had some Boche carried in + they received the same treatment

as our own boys sleep! Not of
course they waited until the
last. They seemed tremendously
surprised at our kindness.
They asked if it was true if
New York, Boston, Philadelphia
were in ruins. Hindenburg
was dead they said & that was
the cause of their defeats.

Through this - I do not by
"line" since we changed the line
together. You will note I had
not mentioned French trains,
characteristics, people, etc. etc.
+ many of the other things usually
written about - kindly tell info
me. Just missed seeing Spenser's

in T. no other Rutgers
have crossed my trail. We
seen several Dills however
one from Tunn + a couple from
Yale.

Regards + best of luck to
all Rutgers men + women!

y.T.B.

Bill Herman
not having my wife at hand
I must depend on you for
corrections in spelling + punctuation.
Since King married
I have depended on her for such
numerous details + if you fail me
+ should print any of this I'd
catch it for mistakes when
I get home.

September 30, 1918

Lieut. William G. Herrman
Mobile Operating Unit # 1
Division of Surgery,
A.P.O. # 731 A.E.F. via London.

Dear Bill:

Your letter of August 24th came in this morning. I can only dictate this brief reply in answer, as I have been very busy lately trying to help the college adjust itself to the new order of things. We are now on a war basis with fraternities discontinued and practically every man a member of the U.S. Army. The Delt house is being used as a barracks and is taking care of 48 men.

Yesterday Budd Todd and Bill Gay dropped in on us. Bill is camp adjutant at Camp Mills, N.Y., and Budd, of course, is still at Columbia. Rutgers won its first Football game against Ursinus by a score of 66-0. This seems to be all the news. It was mighty fine to hear of you so soon after your other letter, and I only wish that I could let you know how much I appreciate your writing. If there is anything I can attend for you here on this side please do not hesitate to ask me. I am always at your service.

Yours in the bonds,

G

121st W. Hermann 10/2/18
mobile operat unit #1
Amer Express Co. Paris
Dear Sir:

Muchas gracias. I am
being poor Spanish for your
promise to write every two
weeks. Just for that your appealing
circular letter #XXV I will
have my wife send you \$5.
Which you can use all for the cir-
cular letter or split with Alumni
Quarterly. Not a large sum
but - will with Liberty Loans
+ a baby or two yourself you
can appreciate. Do we like
the letters + the Quarterly?
Do we like Rutgers and our
riffs and snidearts.

Do you subscribe to the
Stars + Stripes - the A. E. F. newspaper?
If not why not? C + can be
done from New Brunswick
C + will give you Beaumont
news as the Doughtry says.
Has had a letter from Bert
Spaw. Also has learned
that T one or two (13 is 12th St.
not 117th C of 30th Div. A. E. F.)

Since C wrote you of
taking trips to New York
+ San Diego at one time
and another nothing of
particular moment has
occurred except that a

recent batch of mail informs
me that my infant daughter
"who will marry a Rutgers
man" weighed $9\frac{1}{4}$ lbs
at 5 weeks which to the initiated
is going some over 7 lbs
at birth.

Have been to Doremmy
where Jeanne & I have
been & had her vision.
Her little old house with
flagstone floors, stained
ceiling & diamond shaped
windows looks like a cut from
some old copy of Dickens to
use an anachronism. Her
own room has a coal chute
for a window (meaning walls
are thick.)

On the little church where
she received her early training,
shines & beautiful stained
glass windows quite around
one after the ordinary dirty
white limestone exterior.

Jeanne is a symbol to France
of high achievement within the
realm of possibility to the most
lowly. Is it not appropriate
that old Glories such folds across
one side of each shrine? White
Egalite Fraternite - Columbia
carries forward the torch of
Jeanne.

As from
Bill HERRMAN

October 16, 1918

Lieut. William G. Herrman
Mobile Operating Unit # 1
Division of Surgery
Am. E.F. A.P.O. # 731

Dear Bill:

Your letter of September 14 reached me about two days ago, and Edith and I are going to spend a couple of dollars to-night trying to decipher your handwriting. After that I can answer you intelligently. This is simply a brief note to acknowledge your letter's receipt and to let you know that I am still thinking of you.

Most of the news will appear in the war service letter which was mailed yesterday. There is little else that I can add. Unc Amos is in the S.A.T.C. at Columbia, and yesterday I saw a picture of Ernest Scudder with his wife and baby. Scud looks rather over-worked but his family is fine.

That is about all. I hope that you hear regularly from Marjory now and that your daughter is getting along well.

Yours in the bonds,

G

1911 W. B. Herrman
W. B. Herrman
A.P. 0702

10/20/18

My dear Sil:

With "nothing to write about" and "with out
any idea of what to say" you do pretty well as a correspon-
dent but there that is in your line & you always did be of genuine
still capitalize that ability

Some premium nowadays on a high school degree.
No necessity to buy an overcoat & underpay to find
& fraternity bills. O + doesn't seem quite right & nothing for
the government to carry things so far. There are thousands
over here perfectly capable of doing in college who are
going thru all sorts of things, mud, wet, dirty hotels, dissipated
just to say nothing of pain, mud & death for 50 per cent
& your chance get the King's shilling and a free college
education following which if it lasts long enough they
will come home & read these boys at Mill College

I read a very illuminating article in the London
Daily Mail comparing German & English educational
methods. The writer made the remark that in the beginning
of the war there were those who loudly declared that to beat
the Hun one must adopt his tactics & that his purely utilit-
arian education in this hard cold world accomplished
much more than the cultural nine less happy academic
education of the English College man. The writer then went on to prove
that Herrman had shown that the Englishman was much better
adapted to face an unusual situation than the German
when 2 + 2 = 4 the Hun is in his element but when the result
is 3 or 5 the Englishman carefully cope with the situation

because he has been taught to use his judgement
and has not simply a mental storehouse full of formulas.
To raise the minimum phrase he is ~~to be~~ ^{to be} educated.
Not simply taught. He is adaptable not simply adapted
as a Cog in a machine. Ours holding no brief for the
Britisher but I do hate to hear of Greek and Latin being
dropped - I'm afraid it is a bit near-sighted as old
Poppy Kirk said a tree puts forth leaves, the fall of these
and then rotting into the earth produces a wonderfully
rich soil from which many & various plants may
spring. Of the leaves always stayed on the tree that
fall they would make just leaves. So it is with a college
education. The mere studying prepares a cultivated soil
ripe for individual initiative & original genius. If we
simply crammed our minds with useful facts that we
we would have - just facts.

Your reference to Bergie is quite correct I'm
sorry to say for he certainly does try his friends at times.
Poor old Mac - I do feel sorry for him. I hope he
doesn't have to go - his brother is in Europe he has a grand
father to support. But say can you see Queen Elizabeth
+ a large pack under the eaves of an Irist Bergh + the
coldly critical observation of an East Side mad St. & O can't
the news over key - its all in the papers. My brother
+ I expect to be together soon with the whole. He's at #13
By the way after you subscribe to the Stars & Stripes
get the nie Panasserie + the Bayonet. The first keeps
the A E F from the second laughing.
Good bye, Good luck
Bill

October 21, 1918

Lieut. William G. Herrman
Mobile Operating Unit # 1
Division of Surgery
A.P.O. # 731
Am. E.F.

Dear Bill:

You must have taken a good deal of pains with your letter of October 2nd, for I was able to read it without the aid of an interpreter and after only a few minutes of studying. I am glad that the baby is getting along so well. By the time you see her again she may be able to marry the Rutgers man as you have suggested. Maybe my son will be the lucky fellow.

There is no new news since I wrote you last. Outside on the campus our training corps is drawn up for inspection; this afternoon we play a team from Pelham Bay in what promises to be a rather uninteresting contest. More and more the college changes from the old order to the new and those of us who have learned to know the traditional Rutgers are looking forward to the time when we may change back to our former status. College spirit is a thing of the past and even the fraternity lines are weakening. Delta Phi promises to come out unimpaired, however.

Then anything new turns up I shall write you but in the meantime You will have to be satisfied with these rather uninteresting letters containing only generalities.

Good luck to you.

As ever,

124 St. N. G. Hermann
Army

Nov. 13, 1918

My dear Sil!

my dear Sir!
Some dope for the Quartette if you
wish. I u die pacis duo! Can it be possible!
for who are up here close to the lines can hardly
believe it. Occasionally a shell explodes with its
at least sound of us. It is an old dud? It is
celebration? There is a tremendous amount
of ammunition lying around loose both
Bosche + American. However no airplane
flies - no distant ^{near 5 miles from the lines} ~~farage~~ is carried on and
best of all no patients come in. Every one smiles
and the frogs go by with a gun and "legueme est fin"
they cry in better French than I can use.
A sword before Ours the Sole Rutgers
Commanded by

key city but better than the sole Putgas
As I said before I am the sole Putgas
representative not a Yale outfit commanded by
Princeton men. We moved up behind the mud
army for what proved to be the last offensive of the
war. We are encamped close to a former German
rest camp. Believe me it is a real one. Everything
log cabin & Swiss Chateau style but with a fine
view far better than Putgas old one, bowling alleys
dorms etc. The officers quarters with hall paper
plush furniture are wonderful. Fritz had
a private selectivity green where a narrow
cavalry ^{and a lot of} station
marked "off to the rest camp" marked
at the foot of the hill above.

nearby is the village of — with its roofless
skelton houses, its cemetery desecrated with
Bosche tomb stones, its church decapitated &
the claternal in French & German "This church
destroyed by French artillery fire on the night
of Sept 16th 1915". One room of the main
still intact has most artistic mural decorations

I wish Jackie & Andy could see them. My
eye ruined except for "History of Art" &
they are fine. They portray Fritz & his offshoots
German Coats of arms & an allegorical picture
of the "Knight of Amn" overlooking the Rhine.

We got up Monday morning to an intense
furnace & the sound of Huns beaking close
by. We worked like beavers on our patients & it
seemed like hell broke loose. Yet at 11 o'clock
it all ceased. Or you wouldn't want to
believe it?

Sunday the — the division moves in
battle formations to occupy one of the three German
positions probably Mayence. We will probably go to
there. Wish I had a Rutgers flag to carry on
the German border & then present it to the College
As for
Bill

November 15, 1918.

Lieut. William G. Herrman,
Mobile Operating Unit # 1
A.P.O. 702
Am.E.F.

Dear Bill:-

Your letter came at the same time as a letter and check from Marjorie. I was mighty glad to get all of them and thank you very much for sending the money to help out the War Service Bureau. I have not written you for quite a while, but I forget just what news I have told you, so do not mind if this letter is a repetition. The biggest item of news is the return to college of the Rev. Pat Urbano. Pat is coming to Rutgers every Thursday until June when he hopes to receive his long delayed degree. He is just the same as ever and wishes to be remembered to you.

We are all very thankful that peace has come at last and I am hoping for the sake of Marjorie and the baby that you will be able to get back among the first contingents. We do not know just how the new order of things will effect the S.A.T.C. at the College. Our only word from Washington has been to keep on as we are doing until we hear further from the War Department. It is probable that some modified military work will be continued until June or October.

Two of the Delta Phi boys have left for an officers' training camp, leaving only five Delts in college after the present time. It will be hard, I am afraid, to get things started again after we return to normal times.

There is no other news that I can think of now. Our football team continues to win its games and is listed as the best team in the country. By the way, Marjorie writes that you have sent her a lot of souvenirs. Please don't forget the War Service Bureau and the next time you go trophy hunting, remember that we are very anxious to have relics of all kinds from France.

Good luck to you and all best wishes,

Yours in the bonds,

November 15,
1918

Mrs. William G. Herrman,
161 Seymour St.,
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Marjorie:-

Your letter and check have both arrived and we are very grateful for Bill's generosity and thoughtfulness. I have heard from him more than any other man in service since he has sailed and I try to write him a letter at least once a week. He seems to be enjoying himself and to be getting a good deal of valuable experience. His one big regret, of course, is that he cannot see you and the baby.

I am glad to know that Jean is keeping well and both Edythe and I are hoping that sometime soon you will come down to Plainfield and phone us to take a ride over and see both of you. Please do not forget to send a snapshot of her if you can possibly do so. I am enclosing a picture of "Mike."

Unc. Amos is now in the S.A.T.C. at Columbia, as you probably know. Julia Williamson showed me a picture of the entire Scudder family yesterday. It seems to me, that Scud does not look so well as he used to.

Take good care of yourself and try to write us whenever you can find an idle moment. We are all very thankful that the war is ended, and it is my earnest hope that Bill will be among the first to return.

Cordially yours,

Enc.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE ALUMNI OF RUTGERS COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

RUTGERS ALUMNI QUARTERLY

EARL REED SILVERS '13
MANAGING EDITOR

December 3, 1918

Dear Lieut. Herrman:-

I am very anxious to print in the Quarterly and in the War Book of Rutgers College, which will be published later, complete accounts of what happened in cantonments in the United States, and in camps, cities, hospitals and firing line in Europe when word was received that the armistice had been signed. Under the heading "Peace", we hope to be able to print first-hand information of just what occurred ---- what was the nature of the celebration, how did it affect the men, and any other features of the day which may be of interest to our readers.

Will you help us make the history of the war, as far as Rutgers is concerned, as complete as possible? Please write us a letter, describing what happened around you when peace was declared. We shall be very grateful for your aid, and you will be contributing something of real historical value in the life of the college.

Cordially yours,

Earl Reed Silvers

Dear Mr. Silvers:

Yours of Dec. 3rd just received.

Peace? How can there be peace when there is no peace? There was no demonstration where I was on the morning of the armistice principally because we were busier at that time than we had been for weeks.

We had been hearing rumors for days and while they furnished much conversation we gave them little attention except in a wistful sort of way when we thought of home and in a disagreeable frame of mind when we thought of the Boche getting off without the biggest trouncing in history.

On the morning of the armistice an official notice was posted on the bulletin board signed by the C.O. of the second army to which we were attached. This informed us that the armistice had been signed at 5.30 A.M. and that fighting would cease at 11 A.M. Even with the official seal on it we hardly believed it.

Why? Well for the same reason that we were too busy to celebrate. The second army had been preparing for its drive on Metz. Well knew that and we had prepared for our part, extra men had been sent us, extra beds had been set up. On the morning of the eleventh the barrage opened and we were informed that the drive had started. It sure sounded like peace was a long way off and when the ambulances began to toll in and we started our shifts of eight hours on and eight off with never an idle moment during the eight hours on we promptly forgot that foolish little peace of paper. Eleven o'clock proved headquarters right once more but we kept up the shifts for three days and by that time peace was an old story.

Where were we? Between Chaillon and Heurdicourt, in a German rest camp north of ~~Saint-Mihiel~~. *ST. Mihiel*

1st. LtL W.G. Herrman,
Mobile Hospital #39
(Yale Unit)

I will correct the above statement with this addendum. Previous to the arrival of the ambulances and amid the roar of our barrage and the German reply some irrepressible spirits went into the woods and shot off a lot of spare ammunition, both American and Boche of which there was a lot lying around. For nearly two weeks after that there was the same sort of celebrating and we treated many of the celebrators and celebrated in our hospital.

Dear Sil:
After you left I wrote over some of my things & found an extra print of an X-Ray plate showing broken bones, shrapnel & gas in the tissues. It is a good sample of our work. I don't know of another Belgian man in X-Ray series as Mr. D. Muldren care for it?
As ever
Bill.

December 14, 1918.

Lieutenant W. G. Hermann,
Mobile Operating Unit, No 1,
Division of Surgery,
American Ex. Forces.

Dear Bill:-

Your letter of November 13th has just reached me and it is exactly what I have been hoping some one would write. We are trying to gather as many letters as possible for publication in the Quarterly so as to give our readers an idea of what actually happened in different parts of the world when peace was declared. You can imagine how welcome your letter is.

Things are going on just about the same around here. The college changes back to normal on January 2nd, with an R.O.T.C. to supplant the S.A.T.C. Probably one hundred will leave but our student body will number about 350 which is a fair showing. There will be possibly ten or twelve Delta Phi men in college next term which is a good showing. Unc Amos wrote from Newark yesterday after two months at Columbia University and Camp Lee that he is back at his old job in the Academy. The military training must have done him a lot of good. Keep on writing whenever you can. It is mighty good of you to write us often and I appreciate your loyal interest.

Yours in the bonds,

March 25th, 1919.

Lieut. W. G. Herrman,
937 West 7th Street,
Plainfield, N. J.

Dear Bill:-

I would like very much to have the Xray
print, which you mentioned in your note of this
morning. Send it along, and we will put it with
our other trophies in the College Library.

Hastily yours,

ERS/b