

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Dec 13, 1917

149th Field Artillery
American Expeditionary Force
via N.Y.

Dear Silvers:

Your War Service Bureau certainly has the right idea. Next to hearing from home nothing seems so good to one far away as to hear from his Alma Mater and of the doings of the college life day.

I have read several times the accounts of the different games and the campus happenings and wish to thank your bureau for the pleasant moments it has given me.

I note that Rutgers has three hundred fifty men in active service. That certainly is fine.

I'd like to write you a

a long interesting letter but
I am busy as old time. I am
up this breakfast and going
out on a three mile walk
then a fine post to the
range before daylight and
commence firing as soon
as I can see any thing.
The rest of my day (after the
morning) is taken up with
classes and we finish the
day by studying at night
as we did in the States. Only
here we have no time off
to sleep and it seems as
if time would never stay
put.

I can't really tell about
the military part of this
life nor much of any account
because of censorship rules.
I will say however that

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about the time the boys are
studying very late at night
I shall be dropping shrapnel
and shell on the Boche,
with all the accuracy
possible - wind temperature
powder etc

I forgot to say that steam
heat, hot water and hardwood
floors are not in vogue here
but rubber hip boots and
all the clothes you can
carry are quite in vogue.

If I get the chance I
shall send any trifles and
bits of shell or trench
papers and the like to you.

This epistle may seem
a bit disconnected but
there is a violent argument

about probable errors with
shrapnel and certain ranges
with certain charges of powder
and also it is very late
and I've put in my
regular sixteen gun day
and I'm pretty tired.

Thanking you again as
Director of the Bureau and
wishing you a Merry Xmas
and Happy New Year. I am,
Sincerely yours.

Enclosed by,

Wm. N. Packard
2nd Lt. U.S.A.

Wm. N. Packard
2nd Lt. U.S.A.

January 3, 1917.

Lieutenant W. N. Packard,
149th Field Artillery,
American Expeditionary Force,
Via, New York.

Dear Bill:

It was mighty good of you to take the time to write me your interesting letter of December 15th and I appreciate the trouble you have taken. We are always glad to hear from Rutgers men in France and I hope that you will continue to receive the War Service letters regularly. I hope too, that you have received your copy of the Alumni Quarterly which was sent you about six weeks ago. The Quarterly gives a list of Rutgers men in service. In our January issue which will be sent you within the next three weeks we have included a list of Rutgers men in France. Possibly you may be able to find some of them near you. I hope that you will write me again whenever you can find the time.

With best of good wishes

Cordially yours,

Assistant to the President.

ERS/MVH

From Lieut. William N. Packard is,

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"



March 17, 1918

Dear Silvers:

I guess I had best drop you a line whilst things are quiet.

First, I am at the post and have been here for quite some time. Things generally happen in bunches, as it were. One morning I was awakened by the gas alarm and upon opening my eyes discovered many queer creatures moving around in the fog and resembling members of the Klu Klux Klan. You see, aided by the fog, we were nearly gassed. At about ten o'clock I was out behind a battery position when suddenly I heard the familiar wizz which tells of the approach of a shell and, after deciding it was coming my way, I

literally dove for the nearest shell
hole. It burst about 100 feet
away and, being about 155, showed
everything within 200 yards with
splinter. ~~Boys~~ ^{Gas men} in a hole they
faced safely over me. That
evening they shelled the deserted
village in which I have my
room, and so we all had to
go under ground.

For the last hour or so there
have been five or six ~~+~~ under
and two Germans flying above,
and at intervals of about two
minutes they are dropping small
big shells just short of this
place, the splinter of which
light all around.

However, life is quite pleasant
and nowhere near as bad as it
sounds, except this is Sunday and
the Boche shelled Hell out of this
sector about 500-600 AM, and the
Colonel dragged me around to all
the batteries with him to

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see how everything was. 191

I will send some shell fragments at the first opportunity and anything else I can collect.

We have a combined French and American officers mess and live like kings. Meat, potatoes, fresh vegetables, butter, eggs, chocolate, toast, wine and also all the American rations - beans, beef etc.

Yesterday I took a swim in a river, and it certainly was cold as we had ice the night before.

We have already been longer than usual at the front, so I suppose I'll be in a rest trench when

you get this.

I shall be mighty glad
when I run into some of
the other men from college,
as I'm a long ways from
N.Y.

Thanks for your letters;
they certainly keep me in
touch. I have received
them quite regularly and
while here they have come
on Sundays.

Yours for Rutgers.

Wm. W. Packard
2nd St 149th St.

Pardon the paper. - Please.

From Lieutenant William N. Packard '18

France, March 17, 1918.

I guess I had best drop you a line while things are quiet. First, I am at the front and have been here for quite some time. Things generally happen in bunches, as it were. One morning I was awakened by the gas alarm, and upon opening my eyes discovered many queer creatures moving around in the fog and resembling members of the Klu-Klux-Klan. You see, aided by the fog, we were nearly gassed. At about ten o'clock I was out behind a battery position when suddenly I heard the familiar whizz which tells of the approach of a shell and, after deciding it was coming my way, I literally dove for the nearest shell hole. It burst about 100 feet away and, being about a 155, showered everything within 200 yards with splinters. As I was in a hole, they passed safely over me. That evening they shelled the deserted village in which I have my room, so we all had to go underground.

For the last hour or so there have been five or six French and two Germans flying above, and at intervals of about two minutes they are dropping big shells just short of this place, the splinters of which light all around.

However, life is quite pleasant and nowhere near as bad as it sounds, except that this is Sunday and the Boche shelled this sector about five or six a. m., and the Colonel dragged me around to all the batteries with him to see how everything was.

We have a combined French and American officers' mess and live like kings. Meat, potatoes, fresh vegetables, butter and eggs, chocolate, toast, wine, and also all the American rations, beans, beef, etc.

Yesterday I took a swim in a river, and it certainly was cold, as we had ice that night before. We have already been longer than usual at the front, so I suppose I'll be in a rest area when you get this.

Thanks for your letters; they certainly keep one in touch. I have received

them quite regularly and while here they have come on Sunday.

April 12, 1918.

Lieut. Wm. N. Packard,
149th F. A.
A. E. F.

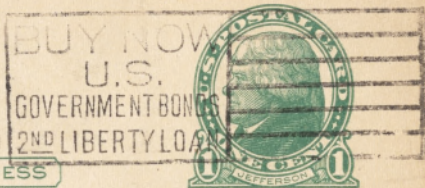
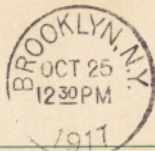
Dear Bill:

Your interesting letter of March 17th reached me to day and I was very glad to know where you were. You most certainly are right in the midst of things and should have some exciting and interesting stories to tell when you arrive back in the United States. I only wish you could be with us this commencement but as that is impossible, I can send you the greetings of the college and wish you success in the work you are doing. Your letters are always appreciated and I am very glad to know that you are keeping in touch with us.

Good luck to you and best wishes.

Director.

ERS/H



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

10/23/17

Lieut Wm N. Packard
149th Regt Field Artillery
American Expeditionary Forces.

To Earl Reed Silvers Director

The above is in re your request.
Thank you very much. Yours sincerely
W. N. Packard.