

Yeoman Camp, Tent E-16,
U.S.N.T.S., Newport, R.I.
September 2nd, 1917.

Mr. Earl Reed Silvers,
Assistant to the President,
Alumni House, New Brunswick, NJ.

My dear Sil:-

Your form letter dated August 31st was forwarded from my home yesterday and received by me today. Some speed, what? And I have quite a bit of news to report before answering the three questions which you propound. In April 1917 I resigned my position with the MEYER ENGINEERING CO., after becoming Secretary and Treasurer of the concern thru the withdrawal of the previous officers, and accepted a position in the Auditing Dept. of the Public Service Corporation of N.J. The first week in July saw me in Washington, D.C. where I had been appointed by the Civil Service Commission as Assistant in the Administration office of the Bureau of Chemistry, Dept/ of Agriculture, in the course of which work part of my duties brought me in contact with reports of the various agricultural experiment stations thruout the country, and I noted with great pleasure that our own alma mater ranks ace high in the Bureau records. Now, Sil, I had long since determined that I would sooner enlist than be taken in the draft unwillingly considering it my sacred duty to uphold the traditions of Rutgers. My draft number having been called, I immediately enlisted in the Yeoman Branch of the Navy, but was unable to get any rating at that late date because of the fact that this particular Branch was already filled up, and was therefore transferred to the U.S. Naval Training Station as Landsman for Yeoman. But for the fact that enlisted men may not communicate with Washington, I would take steps to get a higher rating, as pay-clerk, or warrant officer, or some similar rating to which my training and experience has fitted me. What can you and Rutgers do for me Sil? I need

not tell you that your efforts will be highly appreciated. I understand that all things are possible down at the Bureau of Navigation, Washington, D.C., even the raising of enlisted men from the ranks to the commission of ensign, which is the lowest rank given the Annapolis graduate. Of course it is possible now, altho not formerly, to rise to a commission from the ranks, but this is very rare and can hardly be done inside of two or three enlistments, perhaps four or five. It certainly feels just a little uncomfortable to think that boys with no particular training or experience at all except the ordinary grammar school education stand at a much higher rank, simply because they happened to enlist at a prior date. I am sanguine enough to believe that your efforts will meet with success. At any rate, there is no harm in making an attempt, don't you think so?

Now, then, to your questions.

- (1) No commission received.
- (2) Jack "Chobby" Richer, '13, Yeoman, U.S.N.
- (3) Jack "Chobby" Richer, '13, District No. 6, Essex County, N.J.

Another thing, that the last paragraph of your letter calls to mind, and that is: transfers are possible from one branch of the service to another with assignment to the work especially qualified for.

Nobody appreciates better than I do, Sil, how busy you will be with the vast amount of mail your letter will bring, and therefore all the more will I esteem your aid, as I know it will mean putting yourself out on my account.

Yours in '13,

Jack C. Richer

P.S.- The Army & Navy YMCA here has organized a French class for the rookies in training and have appointed me as instructor. Making rapid progress. Rookies quick to catch on and almost all are eager to be in France. Can send you pictures and a lot more dope, if you want, Sil.

J.C.R.

YEOMAN SCHOOL, U.S.N.T.S.,
Newport, Rhode Island,
Sept. 17/17.

Mr. Earl Reed Silvers,
Alumni House,
Rutgers College,
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Sil:-

Yours of the 7th at hand. I need not repeat that I greatly appreciate your writing to Washington on my behalf. Since writing you last on the 2nd inst. much has transpired here. In fact, at any camp in these times of war, news is made very rapidly. After waiting a month in the so-called "Waiting Class", I finally entered the school and began taking instruction in those matters that pertain to a yeoman's duties. There are four classes, viz: the Preliminary, the Supply, the Executive, and the Pay, besides the Commanding Officer's, which is only a class in name, but is really the graduating class, lasting but one day. Well, I was in the Preliminary Class but three days when a SPECIAL CLASS FOR PARIS AND LONDON SERVICE was organized, a knowledge of French being highly desirable, (almost essential) for the former, and expert stenography for both. About 200 applied for this special class (half the school) and of these 22 (including myself) were selected after their records from A to Z had been investigated, e.g. training and experience. Being perhaps the best up on both subjects, in the opinion of the Chief of the School, I was placed in charge of this SPECIAL COMMANDING OFFICER'S CLASS. Last Thursday, a requisition came in from the Captain (who presumably received his orders from Washington) for six men for service in Paris. The Chief of the School relayed the order to me, leaving it to me to select the six best men. I selected the only four chaps

that could speak French at all fluently (other than myself) and for the remaining two I selected the best stenographers left. The six left for Philly that night, and are now en route to France. I would have gone with that complement, only the Captain, who had been informed by the Chief that I was teaching the French Class at the YMCA, suggested that I be held over for the next complement of six, (including the Chief, myself, and four others of the Special Class that I select) which leaves in just about a week for Paris. I go as Interpreter and Stenographer to the American Embassy. Yea! the chance of a lifetime, and am I going to miss it? Not much. Guess that's news, eh?

Now as to your featuring some military article in the October issue of the Quarterly, I'm really sorry that time will not permit me to write up something as I would like to - I have to copy 4 classes (=4 mos) notes in a week - but I give you herewith in brief outline ~~form~~^{of} the daily routine of the boys here at the Yeoman School, (Camp).

Reveille at 5 A.M. "hit the deck". Wash up, dress, clean up, stack cots, police the camp, get into uniform of the day. The bugler blows chow at 6:45 AM, when everybody falls in, and marches up to the mess hall, cafeteria style; they feed 3000 men in 1/2 hour. Muster blows at 7:45; everybody falls in; drill until 9:00 when they enter the school for instruction until 11:30. Waiting class falls out at 9:00 and set to work at all kinds of jobs around camp, - carpentry, painting, masonry, trench digging, window cleaning, deck scrubbing etc. Lay off at 11:30. Chow blows at 11:45. Muster at 12:45 and drill again until 2:00 PM when they march up to school, waiting class falling out as supra. Lay off at 3:30 after which our time is our own (except for chow at 5:45) until taps, 9:00 all lights out and hit the hay. Unstack cots not until after evening chow. Rules and regulations galore; you cant walk straight without breaking a dozen of them. Not a man in camp but has broken a hundred of them a day. Officers lenient, however, except in cases of serious infractions. I enclose several pictures of camp life and trust you will find them useful in your article.

Yours in 1913,

Jack B. Riches

YEOMAN SCHOOL,
U.S.N.T.S.,
Newport, R.I.,
Sept.18,1917.

Mr. Earl Reed Silvers,
Alumni House,
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Sil:

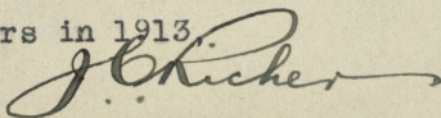
In my haste to reply to your letter I omitted to enclose the pictures yesterday, the kind of pictures that give you a pretty good idea of what camp life is up here, where the temperature hits the 20 below mark during the winter. I hope you will excuse this oversight on my part. To make amends for my carelessness, I am sending you herewith more than I originally intended, to wit:

- (1) Yeoman Camp, Waiting Class digging.
- (2) Yeoman Camp, J.C.R. washing clothes.
- (3) The "Grinder" and Barracks C.
- (4) Yeoman School falling in for chow.
- (5) The Y.M.C.A. opposite the Yeoman Camp.
- (6) On Guard at the Yeoman Camp.

To me these pictures speak volumes, as portraying better than words can just what the rookies must go through during the training period. I trust that they may be equally as eloquent and interesting to all those that see them. You may select any, all, or none, for your military article, according as you think they will serve your purpose.

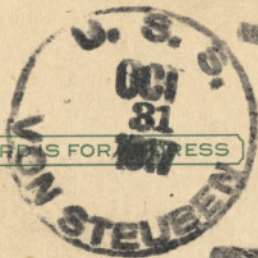
I leave for France in 6 days, and shall write you from there. Any mail for me here will be promptly forwarded to me abroad.
REGARDS TO ALL THE BOYS.

Yours in 1913.



J. H.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

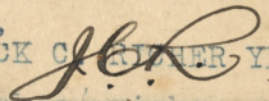
U.S.S. VON STEUBEN,
c/o Postmaster, N.Y.
Oct. 31st, 1917.

Dear Sil:

News Letter No.1, Oct. 22/17, forwarded from Newport, and duly received. Sil, that War Service Bureau idea is great stuff. Am heartily in accord with all four methods of procedure. You may depend on any cooperation I may personally be able to render. Pursuant to my last letter, I left Newport the early part of this month, and am now somewhere off the Atlantic coast. Further details barred from mail by Censorship Regulations. However, will write you again as soon as I hit the other port. Meanwhile my address is as above.

Yours in '13,

JACK C. RUTHER YEO. 2c



JENNIE RICHER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

800 BROAD STREET

ROOM 418

REFER TO

NEWARK, N. J. Dec. 26, 1917.

Mr. Henty P. Schneeweiss, Treasurer,
Rutgers College Alumni Association,
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Sir:

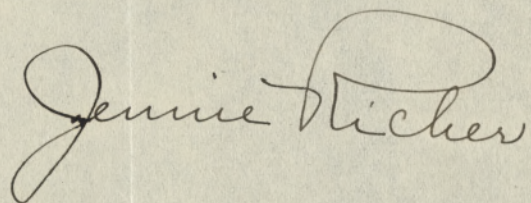
Your letter to Mr. Jacob Chob Richer, dated October 30, 1917, came to my attention to-day.

I wish to say that Mr. Richer has enlisted in the U. S. Navy and is at present in France. His address:

Mr. Jack C. Richer, Yeoman 2c., U. S. N.,
U. S. Navy Headquarters,
Hotel d'Iena,
Paris,
France.

Undoubtely Mr. Richer wishes to continue a Member of the Rutgers College Alumni Association, and I would suggest that you address him there.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennie Richer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the letter.

P.S- Address me : J.C. Richer, Jeoman, U.S.N. Headquarters, Hôtel d'Orléans.

46 PARIS. — Pont et Place de la Concorde

Built by Rameses II, and presented to King }
Louis Philip by Méhamet-Ali in 1836. Egyptian Obelisk



L'Abetille

December 28, 1917.

Mr. J. C. Richer,
U. S. Von Steuben,
Care Post Master,
New York City.

Dear Chobby:

I am mighty glad to get your postal and to know of your safe arrival in France. I am wondering if the address you gave me on the top of the postal is the one I am to use or if I am still to send your letters on board the Von Steuben. I am sending this in care of the New York Postmaster and hope that you will advise me which address is correct providing this letter reaches you.

Good luck to you and best wishes.

Yours in 1913

Assistant to the President

ERS/MVH

U.S. NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN EUROPEAN WATERS.

STAFF OFFICE IN FRANCE.

TELEPHONES { PASSY 13-80.
" 13-81.
" 13-82.

CABLE ADDRESS: "JACKSON-MARINE-PARIS."

4, PLACE D'ÉNA.

PARIS, FRANCE.

REFERENCE NO.

25 February 1918.

Dear Sil:

Your letter of December 28, 1917, addressed on board the Von Steuben, was forwarded to me here after a little delay and finally reached me on Feb. 11th. I was more than delighted to hear from you, Sil, and answering your query, am pleased to advise that until further notice all communications should be addressed to me thus:

Jack C. Richer, Yeoman 1c, USN,
USN Headquarters,
4 Place d'Iena (or Hôtel d'Iena)
Paris, France.

In fact no answer was necessary, inasmuch as subsequent to the receipt of this letter I have received three circulars (Letters IX, X and XI all addressed to Paris). Here is the list of all mail I have received since my arrival here:

<u>Sent</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Enroute</u>
x Nov. 16, 1917, Letter IV	Jan. 28, 1918.	73 days
x Dec. 12, 1917, Letter VII	Feb. 25, 1918.	75 days
x Dec. 19, 1917, President's Message	Feb. 25, 1918.	68 days
x Dec. 28, 1917, Your letter	Feb. 11, 1918.	45 days
Jan. 4, 1918, Letter IX	Feb. 18, 1918.	45 days
Jan. 17, 1918, Letter X	Feb. 19, 1918.	33 days
Jan. 30, 1918, Letter XI	Feb. 23, 1918.	24 days

The first 4 letters (marked x) were addressed to the Von Steuben, and the delay was undoubtedly caused by the fact that they were held on board until an opportunity came to unload over here.

So far, Sil, I have neither received the Football number of the Targum nor the January Issue of the Alumni Quarterly; but I presume they are on their way. If not, get busy, nuff sed. In my position here, I naturally cannot give you much dope about the happenings on the firing line, for obvious reasons. But if it's information about the big fight as conducted on sea and in the air, (where I have a sneaking hunch the war will eventually be decided) why then, Sil, I've got lots and lots of dope which you would find mighty interesting. One of these days, I promise you to send in an article based on what I've seen and learned, if only our Censor will let it go thru. Just you keep right on sending me those Circular Letters; always inspired by them, and made to feel that our dear College is near to our hearts.

Yours in '13,

Jack C. Richer

March 28, 1918.

Jack C. Richer, Yeoman 1c, U. S. M.
USN Headquarters,
4 Place d'Iena
Paris, France.

Dear Chobby:

I was glad to get your letter of February 25th and to know that things are going well with you. Sometime I hope that you will write me an article for the Quarterly and that I may have the pleasure of printing it.

The class of 1913 will hold its fifth reunion on May 20th and if you could find time I wish you would write us a long letter telling us what you have been doing and anything else which you think will be interesting.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Director

ERS/MVH

January 31, 1919

J. C. Richer,

Chief Yeoman,

U.S. Naval Base Seven,

Brest, France

Dear Chobby;-

I had thought that maybe the Germans had captured you.
Why the long silence?

Your postal came to-day and was very welcome. Congratulations on your promotion. We are looking forward to the snapshot which you mention; also to some souvenirs which you didn't say anything about. Don't you think that you could find some for our collection?

With kind personal regards,

Cordially yours,

May 23, 1919.

Mr. Barnett Chobricher,

11 Newark Street,

Newark, N. J.

My dear Mr. Chobricher:-

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 Chobricher 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