

(U.P.O. 773 France

23 September 1918

War Service Bureau, Rutgers College, New Brunswick N.J.

My dear Mr. Silvers.

Your letter of 30 July was very welcome indeed and to show my appreciation I am going to write a letter - the hardest job I know - particularly as I have little of interest to tell.

I attended the Army School of the Line over here - a school for field officers - upon my arrival. It gave me a chance to live in an ancient old Roman walled city where I enjoyed the course and the life very much.

When I rejoined my regiment I found that my division had had hard luck and since then I have had a busy time with my battalion doing a lot of hard routine work to which no glory was attached.

It has been very interesting but we all want the front line work and I am pleased to say that by the time this reaches you I shall be up front again.

At Southampton I ran into Caesar Blunt - a major now in the Artillery - a good one as nearly as I could judge from his men whom I also saw. It was a great pleasure to see him again after all these years particularly as we both happen to be X's and had a good deal in common.

We couldn't help laughing a bit to think that

two classical students of old Rutgers - who
never took drill in college should be getting away
with battalions. It must have been the fine work
we did with Professors Bener and Kile that fitted us. Both
of them, I think, remember me.

We crossed the channel on the same boat - a
night we both remember - not because of seasickness
either, for that is a trouble which so far as I have been
able to judge the army is free from. I parted from Caesar
in Le Havre and hope will meet again here as well as
at Rutgers.

While at Geneva I had the pleasure of seeing
Bobbie Seales which took me back even beyond
Rutgers days. He was looking well and seemed to
be taking kindly to army life.

You might be interested in a man named
Weigel from New Brunswick who attended the Third
Officers Training Camp in which I happened to be
Assistant Senior Instructor. His uncle, General
Weigel, used to come around looking for him but he
dodged him because he didn't want any help in
getting his commission. He was a good soldier and
will make a good officer and we liked his spirit. He
won his commission on his merits and well deserved it.
His uncle incidentally is a mighty fine general. He's over
here now somewhere - "Billy Weigel" as he's spoken of.

This is a very long letter for me. It will at least
help on your loyalty list - altho I wish to go on record
that loyalty to Rutgers is always there in all Rutgers men
even tho the letter be far and far between.

Sincerely yours.

Oliver J. Schoonmaker

1906

Oliver J. Schoonmaker
Major 2nd U. S. A.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Was Service Bureau
Rutgers college
New Brunswick,
N. J.

Major Schoonmaker has been
in France since July.

His address is
Major Alvin Schoonmaker,
303rd Infantry,

A. E. F.