

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ARMY

FORT JAY, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND  
NEW YORK HARBOR

Dec. 4, 1917.

Dear Silvers;

I would like to know if Rutgers quota for the next Officers Training Camp is all filled, and if not if I could come in on it. I had one year of drill at Rutgers Prep and last year took drill with the Juniors under Captain Leisure. I am not sure I want to go to the camp as I am still hoping to get in as a chaplain, but if you could give me this information it might help me decide.

yours,

*Daniel Smart*



December 5th. 1917.

Mr. Daniel S. Smart,

Y.M.C.A.

Fort Jay,

Governors Island, N.Y.

Dear Dan:-

The Rutgers quota for the next Rutgers Training Camp is all filled. Even if there were openings, I am sure that you would not be eligible, as a recent letter from Washington advised us that only Rutgers College graduates and undergraduates who have taken the full course in military training may be admitted to the camp from Rutgers. I hope that you may get your commission as Chaplain and that things are going well with you.

Very sincerely yours,



Word was received Dec. 9 that CHAPLAIN (1st Lieutenant) Daniel S. Smart was killed in action Oct. 15th. His regiment was the 328th Infantry. He was 28 years old the 24th of last August. Born in Schoharie, N. Y. He was a graduate of Rutgers Preparatory School, 1910; Amherst College, Class of 1914. 1915-1916, he was a student at Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained July 25, 1917 by the Presbytery of Argyle, Washington County, New York. 1916-1917 he was Y.M.C.A. Secretary at Rutgers College. He went to the Y.M.C.A. Training Camp at Silver Bay August 1, 1917 and was Religious work Secretary at Fort Ethan Allen, Governor's Island, New York Harbor, and at Camp Vail, Little Silver, N. J. He received an appointment to the Chaplain's Training School at Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky. June 1, 1918 and was commissioned Chaplain and 1st Lieutenant July 5, 1918. August 1 he sailed for France. The last letter received from him was under date of ~~Aug~~ October 5th, at which time his regiment was going up into action to take ~~part~~ part in the final drive. No further details of his death have as yet been received.



A LETTER FROM THE HEAD CHAP-  
LAIN

Hq. 82d Div., American E. F.  
France. 13 December 1918.

Miss Elizabeth A. Smart,  
Cambridge, N. Y.

My dear Miss Smart:— I very much regret not having written you sooner concerning your brother, Chaplain Daniel Smart, of the 328th Infantry, of whose death you have already been informed by the Government. The fact is that, thru some misunderstanding, his emergency address was not given to us, and only in the last day or two have I had it, on request from our General Headquarters Office. And yet I am glad that I did not have it, because of what occurred just the other day.

In making a visit to my own brother, who was wounded and in the hospital, I came across one of our soldiers who told me he was from the 82d Division, and when I asked he said it was the 328th. Noticing that I was a chaplain, he said this: "What became of that chaplain we had, the one that always smiled? I tell you he was a brave one, but he always smiled." And that, it seems to me, is the best description we have of your brother. When he came to us and reported to me in September he had a smile and every time I saw him afterwards, it was with that same winsome way and smile that always went to my heart, and it went to the hearts of his men too. He served them with unstinted devotion and unselfish loyalty to his Master. We were all very fond of him, and the news of his death was a great shock.

I do not know whether you have been informed as to the circumstances of his death or not, but, as far as I can recall, the facts are these:

On October 14, 1918, we were in the midst of that frightful conflict, and his regiment was near San Juvin and Sommerance. He had been to the front with a Mr. Barker, a Red Cross Worker, with some supplies of chocolates and tobacco for the men. As they came back they found several other men who had been killed and they stopped to give them burial. While engaged in this a shell exploded near them, instantly killing Mr. Barker and wounding Daniel.

As soon as I heard that he was wounded I sought him, but in all the turmoil and confusion of that frightful situation, I could find no trace of him. That he had been taken to a hospital and would receive the best care possible I knew, and

since other men at the front needed attention I could not go back for him.

Then, in a few days we searched all the hospitals around us, but we could not locate him. At first I was disposed to feel that he should have notified me of his whereabouts, but could not think much of anything long except the dire work before us.

On either the first or second of November, while making a visit to one of our hospitals, at ~~Les Lettes~~, I asked if they had had any chaplains and was told that they never had but one as a patient, and when I asked if his name was Smart the man said yes. To my question as to his whereabouts he said, "He died the same night, sir." Then I sought the chaplain and the nurse and they told me that your brother was conscious when he reached the hospital; that his smile was still with him, and that while he was waiting to be taken into the dressing room he laughed and comforted other lads supposed to be more seriously wounded than he. And yet he died before he was taken from the X-ray table. It seems that the shell had cut his kidneys in two. The chaplain at the hospital found in his pocket the ritual of his own church, and gave him burial with that rite. He lies there in a beautiful little spot near ~~Les Lettes~~, where his grave is carefully marked and recorded.

I know that your sorrow is great, but I shall always be thankful that Daniel Smart came to minister to the men of this Division. He made Christ seem very real. And after talking with him I always thought of the joy of service. Thru such lives as his our Master has walked with us on the battlefields and ministered to us in our needs.

His church, honored by his life, has been blessed by his death, for he died while about his Master's business, and was faithful unto death.

I hope some day to have the pleasure of meeting you, and perhaps of telling you some other things about this winsome servant of our Lord, who served in our midst. In your sorrow may it be yours to know that peace that passeth understanding and though your heart be heavy, like your brother to smile.

Very sincerely yours,  
JOHN PAUL TYLER,  
Senior Chaplain.

*See Letter*

*See Letter*



May 13, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth A. Smart,  
Cambridge, N.Y.

My dear Miss Smart:-

I appreciate very much your letter just received with enclosures concerning your brother, Chaplain Daniel Smart. It is a great satisfaction indeed to have such testimony concerning his devotion to duty, his courage and self sacrifice. It seems such a pity that his life should have been cut short but I know that you and the rest of his family are not without much sustaining comfort. The Editor of our College Quarterly will welcome this item among those which he is gathering for a war record of Rutgers.

Very sincerely yours,



York, Pa.  
July 7, 1919.

Mrs. L. A. Smart,  
Cambridge, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Smart,

Your letter concerning your son was received some time ago and I am sorry I have not answered it before this.

Your son was brought to Evacuation Hospital 14 the evening of October 14, and although severely wounded, as the senior chaplain wrote you, he wore that cheery smile and insisted on "his boys" being sent through the X-ray department and being operated on first. He never lost heart and was always cheering up the men and comforting them, although suffering severely from his wounds.

He bore up so bravely on the X-ray table we hardly realized how he suffered. He was operated on immediately and it was found that one of his kidneys was practically destroyed by the shell that hit him. He died shortly after the operation never regaining consciousness.

For days after his death every one around our hospital spoke of the brave chaplain who was such a comfort to "his boys" and who went smiling and courageously to his death.

Any one who was at Somerance, even after the battle, knew what a hell it had been. Dead men and all the wreckage of a terrific battle were strewn everywhere and the whole landscape looked as if some supernatural being, in his wrath, had produced a holocaust and



made of nature the frightful, torn and twisted and destroyed thing she was. I am not surprised that your son, in his noble work, was not able to come unscathed through that field of death at Sommerance.

Yours is the pride of a mother whose son has given his life for his God and his country and though lonely and sad I pray God may comfort you in the loss of your most precious son, a life given for humanity's sake.

Very truly yours,

Louis S. Weaver.

Dr. Weaver was Xray Specialist at Evacuation Hospital 14.

His home address was given to my sister by a Jersey City physician who was attached to the same Hospital.



ELIZABETH A. SMART  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

CAMBRIDGE, N. Y. July 30, 1920.

Mr. Earl R. Silvers,  
Assistant to the President,  
Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.

My dear Mr. Silvers:

We appreciate very much the desire of the College to help to perpetuate the memory of my brother, and your own kind personal tribute.

Briefly the facts of his service were these: He took the Y.M.C.A. training course at Silver Bay in August of 1917. His application was already in for an appointment to the Chaplains' Training School, and he was ordained here by the Presbytery of Argyle in June of that year in preparation for the application. He had an understanding with the Y.M.C.A. that he was to be held in this country in order to take the appointment if it could be secured; in which event he was to reimburse them for the expense of his training. From September to the early part of November, 1917 he was stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, as religious work secretary; from November to February at Fort Jay, Governor's Island, New York Harbor; and from February until the latter part of May when he obtained his appointment to Camp Zachary Taylor, at Camp Vail Little Silver, N. J. He went to the training school June 1 and was commissioned 1st. Lieutenant and Chaplain July 5, 1918. He sailed for France from Hoboken August 1 and was stationed at Brest for ten days. On either the 23rd or 24th of August he left for Chaplains' G. H. Q. at Chaumont. He had gone over as a casual officer. At Chaumont he received his appointment to the 2d Battallion, 328th Infantry then in the St. Mihiel sector, where he joined them September 3. He was in that action and went into the Argonne with them, where he was killed in the fighting around Fleville, Oct. 14, 1918. The government records report his death as of the 15th. He died at midnight on the X-ray table of Evacuation Hospital #14 then stationed at Les Islettes where he had been carried for treatment. He had been ordered to take charge of the burial of the bodies of two or more men who had fallen on a street corner of the village of which the Germans had the range. While engaged in this work with the help of a Red Cross man, Lieut. Fred D. Barker, a shell struck near the spot scattering shrapnel and instantly killing Lieut. Barker, wounding Dan. The shell completely destroyed one of his kidneys, and he died in the Evacuation hospital. He was first buried at Les Islettes and then removed to the government cemetery at Romagne, where his body will remain.

I am enclosing extracts from letters and papers which will aid you



in making up your record. I send a copy of the paper giving the memorial service held for him here and the resolutions of Argyle Presbytery under separate cover. The parts referring to Dan are marked in blue pencil.

My father had some cuts made, of photographs showing him in uniform. The one with the regular officer's cap was taken here before he sailed: the one in the overseas cap was enlarged from a postal card picture taken at Brest, France. Will you please take care of and return these cuts when you are through with them?

If you want any further information you might write to Rev. Thomas Guthrie Speers, 47 University Place, New York City, who was his comrade at Chaplains' Training School and travelling companion on the voyage across. Chaplain Speers has the addresses of the other two men who made up their trio.

Very sincerely,

*Elizabeth A. Stuart*

Please see that the printers take care in wrapping the cuts for return so that the faces will not be damaged.



Extract from letter written to his mother from the Chaplains' Training School at Camp Zachary Taylor, June 29, 1918:

"Now wherever I go from here remember that it is for the boys who are in the army and for our religion. I hate to leave you and father but it is the least one can do. Christ died for the world and it would be a sin and selfishness for a young professing Christian to hold himself back now if the way opens up for service. I am sure you all will look at it that way. If you could see the drafted men coming into camp as I have this week right from their homes you could more easily realize what I mean. It is pretty tough for most of them and they need all the help we can give them to send them back home after the war good citizens and good Christians. "



"Some way he symbolizes to me all of the boys who fell "over there" - in face and form and that indescribable spiritual quality he gathered them all up in his person. His eyes were wonderful as we bade each other good-bye." The question was asked, "'Are you ready? You will go over the top within ten days.' And with that marvelous look - which only we women who served with them while the war was on, may know - he answered, 'I am ready.' \* \* \* \* "I had been telling him what the men wanted from their chaplains. His letter showed me that he had met their need." \* \* \* \* "May I add this - after I had bade him goodbye, I said to another Chaplain, 'That is the biggest and strongest man I ever saw enter the ministry. If he is spared he can do wonders - If he pays the full price - then we for whom he gived it - must carry on his work - and so I have felt."

"Sincerely,

Mary A. Rolfe."

- Extract from letter of Y.M.C.A. worker to Chaplain Smart's sister



July 22nd, 1920.

Miss Elizabeth A. Smart,

Cambridge,

New York.

My dear Miss Smart:-

Rutgers College hopes to publish a book commemorating the part taken by the College during the recent war. In that book will be contained arbitrary notices of all Rutgers men who gave their lives in the service. We have listed your brother, Chaplain Daniel Smart, among our College men who have made the supreme sacrifice. I find, however, in preparing his obituary that I have very little except the mere facts of his service and death. Have you on hand any details: letters from his comrades or fellow officers, or anything which may help us in paying full tribute to him. If you have, I shall be very grateful for copies. We shall return them to you within a week after their receipt. I believe that you did send some things to Dr. Demarest, but the President has apparently misplaced them.

Chaplain Smart is the only one of our men who has died in service whose picture we have not on hand. If you can send us a photograph of him, either in uniform or without, we shall have a cut made and return the picture to you.

I am very sorry to call upon you at this late date, but I hope that you will appreciate the circumstances and help us to make this lasting memorial to your brother, one which is worth while. I knew Dan well when he was here as our Y. M. C. A. Secretary and I do not think that I have ever come in contact with a man of more sterling qualities.

Very sincerely yours,

Assistant to the President.

ERS:B



August 6, 1920

Miss Elizabeth A. Smart,  
Cambridge, New York.

My dear Miss Smart:-

Upon my return to this office after an absence in  
Maine, I find your letter of July 30th, and hasten to acknowledge it.  
The cuts and newspaper have also reached me.

I appreciate very much the information you have  
so kindly given us for our War Book. There is just one question,  
however, in regard to the cuts. We have had uniform plates made of  
the other Rutgers men who died in service; they are all bust pictures  
of a certain type, and it seems to me that it would be preferable to  
have Dan's picture like the rest. Will it be possible for you to  
send a bust photograph of him? We can have a cut made within ten  
days, without injuring the picture and can then return it to you. In  
the meantime I shall take very good care of the things you have sent  
and shall await your word.

I leave for Chicago to-morrow afternoon, to be  
gone for two weeks. It will be better perhaps to delay answering this  
letter until the last week in August, when I shall be here.

Very sincerely yours,

[photocopy: original  
paper is brittle]



HQ. 32D DIV., AMERICAN E. F., FRANCE.

13 January 1919.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 1. )

EXTRACT

7. The Commanding General announces to the Command the splendid conduct of the following officers and soldiers in action against the enemy as described after their respective names:

\* \* \* \* \*

Chaplain Daniel Smart, 328th Infantry (Deceased)

During the week of October 7 to 13, 1918, at CHATEL CHEHERY, FRANCE, and FLEVILLE, FRANCE, Chaplain Smart won the esteem of his men by his great devotion to duty in caring for the wounded and burying the dead, at times even under heavy shell fire. In the performance of these duties he lost his life at Fleville on the 14th of October.

\* \* \* \* \*

8. The Commanding General takes particular pride in announcing to the Command these fine examples of courage and self-sacrifice. Such deeds are evidence of that spirit of heroism which is innate in the highest type of the American soldier and responds unflinchingly to the call of duty, wherever or whenever it may come.

9. This order will be read to all organizations at the first formation after its receipt.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DUNCAN:

OFFICIAL

Gordon Johnston,  
Chief of Staff.

R. L. BOYD,  
Major, A. G. D., Adjutant.



Dialville, Texas, Sept. 21st, 1920.

Elizabeth A. Smart,  
Cambridge, N.Y.

Dear Madam;

Yours of the 10th is received. I had the good fortune to be very well acquainted with your brother, Chaplain D.S. Smart, and was standing within 30 feet of him when he received the shell wound of which he died at the Field Hospital a few hours later.

At this time I was attached to 1st Bn. 328th. Inf. and had established an Aid Post in an old wine cellar under a building near the center of the town of Fleville.

The Germans had retreated the day before, and the line was then something like  $1/2$  or  $3/4$  of a mile beyond Fleville. This town was constantly shelled by the Germans and many were killed and wounded on the streets and in the buildings. A shell had just made a direct hit on the kitchen of an engineering company immediately across the street from the Aid Post, killing a cook and a man on K.P. duty. These had been placed on the ground on the outside of the Aid Post and your brother and Lieut. Barker, as was their duty, were making examination of the bodies preparatory to burial when a shell came over making a direct hit of Lieut. Barker, killing him instantly. He did not suffer in the least. The chances are, he never realized that he had been hit. A small piece shell, probably as large as an egg, hit your brother in the back, (kidney region). I assisted him into the Aid Post and put on a shell dressing after packing the wound to stop ex-



ternal bleeding. I also gave him a Hypodermic of Morphine to relieve pain and reduce shock. And I had him in an ambulance and on the way to the Field Hospital in ten minutes after being wounded. I realized his condition was critical and was not at all surprised to learn that he died a short time after reaching the Field Hospital. Had the necessary equipment, assistance etc. been at hand, to have operated immediately, without moving him to the Field Hospital, there would not have been any hope of saving his life.

At this time, the Germans were being cleared out of the Argonne Forest and were contesting every inch of the ground. It was raining almost incessantly; the nights were bitter cold; and the men suffering terribly. Supplies, especially rations, were difficult to bring up. The Germans were shelling the roads day and night.

Your brother had been with the Regiment only a short time. We were receiving replacements almost daily. The 82nd Div. had near one thousand men killed and several thousand wounded in this battle. I heard General Pershing state at a review of the Division, in the Central France, in January following, that the 82nd. was at the front longer than any other Division (26 days without relief), and probably did more than any other Division towards the clearing of the Argonne. So you may know your brother was up where things were happening, and doing his bit like a man when mortally wounded.

I was better acquainted with Lieut. Barker, had hiked with him from above Cornay across the Aire, and up to Fleville the day before. He was in fine physical condition and in high spirits.



Trusting this gives you the desired information, and with deepest sympathy for Mr. Smart's and Lieut. Barker's families, I am,

Very sincerely,

Edw. B. Jones, M.D.

This Doctor's address was brought to us by a young man in Florida who had become associated with a party acquainted with the circumstances.

Lieut. Barker was a Red Cross worker. A son of Judge A. V. Barker of Ebensburgh, Pa., and, who, after some month's search, learned our address through your (Rutgers) institutions.



Academy Place.  
Cambridge, N.Y. March 1, 1921.

Dr. Demarest,

Dear Sir;

I am writing you to inclose copies of the letters of which I spoke to you. And I am also inclosing a copy of the Senior Chaplains letter.

It was a gratification and a pleasure for Elizabeth and me to be with you all for the Preparatory School Exercises. And we wish to thank you specially for taking us to the College Chapel to see the beautiful tablet. We had not heard about it, and it was so great and so happy a surprise to find that you had included Daniel's name. Next to Amherst I think Rutgers College was Daniel's choice. When he was in Preparatory School, word was sent to Chi Psi, of the College, of his application being in at Amherst and that his Father was a Chi Psi, with instructions to enlist him (Daniel). So, his acquaintance was soon made and kindness shown him, which he much appreciated; and became interested in the College life and associations.

From earliest childhood, because it was his Father's College, he had said he would go to Amherst; and, be-



cause Smith College was near it, that Elizabeth would go there. He had been to Amherst and met some of his Father's Professor friends, and found the valley<sup>1</sup> and mountains similar to our situation here; and he loved them. ~~xxxxxx~~ When the time came to finally decide, he said he told the boys at Rutgers he would go to Amherst for his first year, and, then, decide. And so it turned that way. When called to take the Y.M.C.A. work at Rutgers, I think it was a special gratification to him; and he was very happy in it.

Then you know, Mr. Smart's connection has always been with the Reformed Church, and its Institutions are dear to us. There is no Reformed Church here, but, Mr. Smart retains membership in the Classis of Saratoga.

With our thanks for your kindness and with our best wishes for you in all your interests,

Very Respectfully yours,

Leleka A. Smart.  
(Mrs. John G. Smart.)