



WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

"WITH THE COLORS"



July 29, 1917

Van Wyck, L. S.

Dear Sil,

How is the Vice-president of Rutgers? Your old friend "Spark" is a soldier boy at last. My Draft number appeared near the top of the list, so I decided not to wait to be pulled in and enlisted at once as a private in the medical dept of the regular army. Probably my chief duty will be to clean up the cuspidors, cans, etc.

I had just finished my first term at Chicago University when I took the leap. They shipped us down here about 200 strong last Wednesday. First they put us through a thorough

physical exam which lasted five hours. That eliminated a whole bunch, but they couldn't find a darned thing wrong with me, so I was "shot" in each arm for typhoid and small-pox and sworn into Uncle Sam's service "for the period of this emergency." Yesterday we got our uniforms and were assigned to our companies. I was fortunate in getting in with several college men. Most of these fellows can hardly read or write. Several of them did not know what a shower bath was. Everyone is required to get a free hair-cut, shave, shower bath, etc. before getting measured. One guy asked the Sergeant what he meant by "showerbath". I saw two fellows take the toothbrushes from their kits and ask somebody, "What the h-l are

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are those things for?" Thank goodness they are not all so ignorant.

This place is situated on the west bank of the Mississippi about 15 miles south of St. Louis. We shall probably stay here about a week longer, and then get shipped to some port for a few months' training before going across. They can't send us to France too soon to please me.

It is 95° in the shade here to-day. One fellow fainted from the heat yesterday. Heris' hoping they don't send me to Fort Sam Houston.

How is Mrs. Silver? Write to me when you get time and tell me how

everything is down East.

It is time for Mess now, and I
am hungry enough to eat the beans
to-night. So long.

Yours in $\Delta\Phi$,

Spark (alias "Sammy")

16th Recruiting Co.,

Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

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August 10, 1917.

Dear Sil,

I was awfully glad to get your letter and hear about all the Deltas. I hope there will be enough left to keep the Epsilon Chapter running.

They have shifted me up here in Indiana now to a regular medical training camp. The commanding officer said a few of us might go across very soon, but the chances are that it will be next spring for most of us. 33 of us with 4 officers make up a regimental detachment which will take care of all the sick and

wounded in a regiment of 1800 men.

This is a great life. You could write books about it. It's tough luck in one way that you can't get into it, but you certainly are doing more for your country now than you could if you were in the army.

Please send me a copy of the Quarterly. I shall be here at least two weeks.

Drop me a line again if you hear any news. The arrival of mail is our only excitement here.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Silvers. Hope I shall see the "new Delt" some time. My brother has two prospective Delt's and one girl in his family. So long, Sil, old kid!

Yours in the bonds,

Company C, M.T.C.

H. Benj. Harrison, Indiana.

Spark.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Young Men's Christian Association
Louisville, Kentucky.
"A HOME FOR YOUNG MEN AWAY FROM HOME"

13th Unit, Med. Dept.,
Camp Taylor,
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sil,

Just received the letter asking
for statistics.

L. S. Vandepoh, '15, private, Med. Dept., U. S. Army.
That is my status just now. The
way they are going to distinguish
enlisted men from drafted men
is that the former get a U. S. button
to wear on the collar, while the
others get an N. A. button (National Army).

As luck would have it, Thurlow
Nelson '13 is my sergeant.
Ferdie Haasis was in my company
for a while at Fort Harrison, Ind.,
and strolled around sporting
an enormous ϕ BK Key. I have
put mine in storage until I get
back to civil life.

Nelson told somebody that I
could run a typewriter, and they
put me right into the Dental Surgeon's

office at headquarters. I don't
know what my next move will
be. We never stay in one place
more than a week or two.

Give my best to all the brothers.
Wish I could be back in old
New Brunswick when College
opens. I'll miss the football
games more than anything.

Please write if you ever have
anytime, Sil.

Yours in the bonds,

Spark

S. S. Van Wyck

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL

ARMY AND NAVY

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS



"WITH THE COLORS"

S.S. Van Dyke
115

Sept 21, 1917.

Base Hospital,
Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sil,

I just got a letter from my sister who has been up in Maine, saying that she met a boy from Montclair who is about to enter Rutgers and would make a good Delt. His name is George Hornford. She says he comes from a fine family and is quite well off. It might be worth while to look him over anyway.

Everything is going finely here. The drafted men are arriving in multitudes. I have been made a first class private, which raises my salary to \$33 per month. That is enough to pay for my cigarettes. Best to all the boys.
Yours in ΔΦ, Spark

Base Hospital
Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.

SOLDIERS' CLUB
LOUISVILLE, KY.

November 12, 1917.

Dear Sil,

Your weekly letters are thoroughly enjoyed and I think the idea is a splendid one. Was also glad to get the Alumni Quarterly.

Sergt. Nelson and I are still working hard in the Base Hospital. We are having a big epidemic of measles in the Camp. It takes 300 men to look after the patients and run things around the hospital. If the epidemic spreads much more, we shall need an extra force. Nelson is the top sergeant of the medical detachment and takes us all out for twenty minutes of setting up exercises every morning at 5⁴⁰. You ought to see his moustache. It's a beauty.

Best to all the Delts.

Yours in the bonds,
Spark.

November 16th. 1917.

Mr. Laird S. Van Dyke,

Base Hospital,

Camp Taylor,

Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Spark:-

I was just beginning to wonder if you had sailed for France and was on the point of writing you when your letter of November 12th arrived. I was glad to hear that things are going along smoothly and welcome the bit of news about Thurlow Nelson. Please remember me to him and tell him to drop me a line when he finds the time.

Things are going along well at the college although there is some danger of our losing at least fifty boys when the next draft quota is called. The Delts have fifteen men, twelve of whom are living in the house. The boy you wrote me about, I forget his name just now, was pledged Dake when I looked him up. I had a good chat with him, however, and believe that he would have made a good Delta Phi. All the other news has been told you in the weekly letters and in the Quarterly. I am trying now to raise enough money to send the Targum to all of our younger alumni at least.

Good luck to you.

Yours in the bonds,



"WITH THE COLORS"



Camp Sherman, O.
June 10, 1918.

Dear Sil,

Is the War Service Bureau going to take a vacation this summer? We certainly will miss your letters if you do.

I succeeded in getting transferred to an Ambulance Company, and shall now go across with the 84th Division. We don't expect to stay here more than two or three weeks. I seem to find Rutgers men wherever I go. This time I have landed in the company of which Eddie Boller, 1st Lt., M.R.C., Rutgers '14, is one of the officers. I recognized him by the old familiar stride with which he used to saunter up to the pitcher's box in the good old days. Another fellow in this company comes from

Perth Ambroy and says he went to school with Bones Browning.

Keep up the good work, Sil,
and let me know how the active
chapter of $\Delta\Phi$ is getting along.
I trust there are ^{at least} one or two boys
left there, who expect to come back
in the fall.

Hoping to be able to write A.E.F.
as my address in the near future,

Yours in the bonds,
Spark

Amb. Co. #336,
309 Sanitary Train,
Camp Sherman, Ohio.
84th Div.

June 12,
1918/

Sergt. L. S. Van Dyck,
Ambulance Co., # 336
309 Sanitary Train,
Camp Sherman, Ohio.

Dear Spark:

I was mighty glad to get your letter of June 10th and to find your new address. I hope you have not been in Ohio very long and that you have been receiving the War Service letters. We are going to continue to send the letters throughout the summer although I do not know what in the world we will write about.

I am glad to know about Eddie Boller as I did not have him listed on our War Service record. We ought to have about seven or eight active men in the Delta Phi chapter next year, not counting the freshmen. About four men are pledged I think.

As soon as you get on the other side please let me have your address.

Good luck to you and all best wishes.

Yours in the bonds,

ERS/W



ARMY AND NAVY
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Camp Mills, N.Y.
August 27, 1918.

Dear Sil,

Just received letter XXV, War Service Bureau, and was glad to get it, as usual. Our Division just arrived here from Camp Sherman, O., and we hope to start across in a week or two. Lt. Boller is still with this Ambulance Company, but I have met no other Rutgers men lately. Had an interesting letter from Corb not long ago, in which he tells of having seen a Boche airplane shot down. He was working in an advanced Dressing Station in a "quiet sector" at the Front, ~~and~~ helping to dress wounds, washing out gassed eyes, etc. He says the Cooties are holding their ground pretty well ~~despite~~ the Big Offensive.

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.

Here on Long Island airplanes
seem to be as numerous as automobiles.
It is a common sight to see twenty of them
operating in one formation.

Hope I'll have something interesting
to write soon. Good luck to you, Sil,
Give my best to the boys - also to Mrs.
Silvers and Earl Reed Jr.

So long,

Spark

Sub. Co. 334

309 San. Train (84th Div.)

Camp Mills, N.Y. (soon to be
A.E.F. via N.Y.)

August 30, 1918.

Sergt. Laird S. Van Dyck,

Ambulance Co. 336,

309 Sanitary Train,

Camp Mills, N.Y.

Dear Spark;-

It was good the get your letter of August 27, and I hope you will forgive me if I don't write a very long answer. We have just had a new ruling from Washington which practically turns the college into an army camp, and we are trying to readjust things. So there is only time for a brief word.

Good luck to you in the big trip. If you see Corb or any other Rutgers men, remember me to them. Lunker Janeway is at the biggest port of embarkation (Base Finance Office, Base Section No. 1) and Toady Bracher is at Base Hospital No. 8 , P.O. 701, Savenay, Loire Inferiore, France. Maybe you will come across them.

Yours in the bonds,

(photocopy: Original
little)

France,
October 1 1918.

Dear Sir,

Here we are at last in the grape country with everything looking as peaceful as it did in the U.S.A. We hope to get to the front before long. We are billeted in a rather dilapidated chateau perhaps several hundred years old, situated on a hill overlooking a river. It is the most beautiful site that you can imagine, and you may believe that we appreciate having a river right at hand. The weather has not been so cold as to prevent us from taking a swim every day. Our billets seem like palaces after spending a few nights in boxcars built to contain 8 horses or 40 men.

We landed here just at the right time of year for grapes and blackberries. One sees grapes, grapes, grapes, everywhere, and the kind hearted French people are glad to give us all we can eat. It seems strange to us the fact that the natives do not eat or pick the blackberries. They have an idea that blackberries cause dysentery. The soldiers however are willing to take a chance on that any day, and we have felt no ill effects as yet. A couple of days ago I was eating mess down town, sitting with my back against a fence, when I was startled by a gale of laughter directly behind me. There stood two French maidens greatly amused by the fact that we were drinking water with our midday meal. It appears that such a practice is unheard of in France.

My slight knowledge of the French language has been of inestimable value to me. Have been acting as the Company interpreter and have also had a delightful time chatting with the peasants and townspeople in the vicinity. They are all wonderfully hospitable. We have been greeted so cordially on all sides that it has made us more than glad to be here. We get many interesting glimpses of French family life. They all love to talk and ask questions such as the following: "How old are you? Are you married? Do you expect to marry a French girl? Are you Catholic or Protestant?" The Protestants are out of luck, because almost all of the

French people are Catholics. At one house we met a French brancardier who said, "I ~~he~~ have seen the Americans in action, and they are good soldiers." Another old Frenchman proudly recited for our benefit the names of the last four presidents of the United States, which I considered quite a feat and applauded vigorously.

Have received no mail yet from the States but hope to get some soon. My address is the same Amb. Co. #336 309 Sanitary Train, Am. E. F. With best wishes to all ~~the~~ the boys, and hoping the College will have a prosperous year,

As ever Yours in the bonds,

Spark

Censored
At Base Hospital C.
309 San. Tr.

October 19, 1918

Sergt. L. S. Van Dyck
309th Sanitary Train,
Ambulance Co. # 336
American E.F.

Dear Spark:

Your letter of October 1st reached me this morning, and I am sure that it is unnecessary for me to say that I enjoyed it very much. I envy you your experiences which surely must mean a lot to you to be in France. In after years it will be something you will look back to with a good deal of pleasure.

In order to make sure that you do not miss anything, I am enclosing war service letter # 28, which will give all the news of the college. There is not much else. Delta Phi has now a membership of ten men, four upper classmen, and six freshmen, among the latter, two boys from Rahway and one from White Plains. The fraternity house has been taken over as a dormitory but the men manage to have a meeting in the lodge room once a week and we are hoping to keep our organization intact. I hear frequently from the men in service who were with us at college. Pete Ainsworth is now a captain and Steve White is a major. Unc. Amos is now in the S.A.T.C. at Columbia University and is working hard for a commission. The rest of the fellows are just about where they were the last time I wrote you. Bud Chase has been married and Bill Herrman has a new daughter.

I hope that you will write me whenever you find the time. I shall try hard to keep you in touch with affairs here at home.

Yours in the bonds,