

WAR WORK COUNCIL



ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

"WITH THE COLORS"



Sept 5

1917

Mr. Earl Reed Silvers
New Brunswick

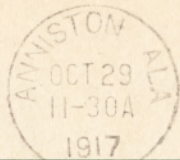
N.J.

Dear Silvers, -

In answer to your letter asking for information as to enlistment and draft of college alumni I have the following to offer you.

I have enlisted in the Sanitary Detachment of the 3rd N.J. Inf. and have at present the rank of first class Private.

Very truly yours
Harry E. Watt.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

EARL REED SILVERS

ALUMNI HOUSE

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

10/28/17

Dear Silvers,-

When I first enlisted I was with the Sanitary Detachment of the 3rd N. J. Twenty-men of our detachment were transferred to the Sanitary Detachment of the 104th Regiment of Engineers on Oct. 11th.

I believe that this is the only Regiment of Eng. in the U. S. They certainly are a great bunch of men. Our location is the best in Camp McClellan. In the Field Day events on Wednesday we were first out of 36,000 men represented. There are a lot of Rutgers men with us including. R. Smith '17, Prigley '14. Hamilton '16, R. Martin '15, Schlotter '15. Ward '14. Sincerely, Harry C. Watt.

OLD VERA BO
November 1st. 1917.

Mr. Harry C. Watt,

Sanitary Detachment,

104th. Regiment of Engineers,

Camp Mc Clellan,

Anniston, Alabama.

Dear Harry:-

Thank you for your postal of October 28th.

I did not know that Smith '12 and Pingry '14 are in the service and I am deeply obliged to you for the information. Drop me a line whenever you can and be sure to let me know when you move to another location.

Very sincerely yours,

EDA BOND

Sanitary Detachment
104th Regt Engineers
Camp McClellan
Anniston, Ala.

Dear Sisters, -

I have sent your name in as a reference with my letter to Major Bigelow asking for an application to the Third Series of Officers Training Camps.

I have no chance for advancement in this corps because only graduate medical men or dentists are given commissions. Our present major, Major A. B. Davis, is a fine man personally but he ~~lets~~ allows important matters to go until the last minute before they receive his attention. That is why I want to make application through the College and I thank you very much for sending me that Bulletin concerning same.

Do the best you can for me when Major Bigelow asks you about my career as a cadet in Rutgers College.

Do you know where Ward Malmar is now. I have not heard from him since the 150th Anniversary Celebration. When you write give me his address or remember me to him when you write to him.

Very sincerely yours
Harry C. Watt.

11/12/17.

Medical Dept.



104TH REGIMENT ENGINEERS
U.S. ARMY

April 13, 1918

Dear Silvers,

Was sorry to hear that you had been suffering with a siege of boils. We have to treat a number of such cases and I know by the way the fellows act that they are very painful. I never have had any myself (I am knocking on wood) so I am not able to sympathize with you to the fullest extent.

Your letters are certainly very newsworthy and I enjoy them a lot. I received a renewal blank some time ago for the Quarterly. Since that time I have been a little short of cash however, I intend

ing in my subscription as soon as possible
in hopes for the chance to salute
Lt. Col. Leasure again. I knew that he was
a man capable and worthy of advance-
ment. My only wish is that I were
fighting with him.

Was just talking to Lt. Martin is a
few minutes ago. He wants to be
remembered to you. He is in command
of the Hodges Company who are on the same
street with us. For the past week I have
been attending the Signal and Intelligence
school which he is conducting. He makes
a very interesting and thorough instructor.

I see Hamilton ex-17 and Ward '14
most every day. They are Master-Engineers
and are helping supervise the work
in the trenches. The medical department
are building their own first aid station
so I have been handling the "banjo" (shovel)
and "anchor" (pick) a lot lately besides
doing a lot of mosquito exterminating
and general sanitation work.

My best regards to all my friends
about college.

Sincerely
Harry E. Walth.

ending in my subscription as soon as possible.
I am anxious for the chance to salute
St. Col. Secare again. I knew that he was
a man capable and worthy of advance-
ment. My only wish is that I were
fighting with him.

Was just talking to St. Martin a
few minutes ago. He wants to be
remembered to you. He is in command
of the Hodges Company who are on the same
street with us. For the past week I have
been attending the Signal and Intelligence
School which he is conducting. He makes
a very interesting instructor.
April 28, 1918
Medical Department
104th Regiment Engineers
Camp McClellan, Va.

I see Hamilton is in 17 and Ward is
most important. They are Master Engineers
and are helping Mr. Silvers has not yet recovered from his attack of
in the trench. He has been in the work
well, one having appeared on his neck and one very near his eye.
are built up. He wishes me to thank you for your letter, however, and to tell
so I have been happy to hear from the men in (with)
and anchor (pick) a lot lately besides
doing a lot of mosquito exterminating
and general sanitation work.

My best regards to all my friends
about college.

Sincerely
Harry C. Wath

April 18, 1918.

VEDA BOND

Harry E. Watt,
Medical Department,
104th Regiment Engineers,
Camp McClellan, Ala.

Dear Mr. Watt:

Mr. Silvers has not yet recovered from his attack of
boils, one having appeared on his neck and one very near his eye.
He wishes me to thank you for your letter, however, and to tell
you that we are always glad to hear from the men in service.

Sincerely yours,

H

OLD VEDA B

8

104TH REGIMENT ENGINEERS
U.S. ARMY

May, 19, 1918

Dear 'Sil' -

Am enclosing a letter that I would like you to forward to Lt. Wallace T. Eakins if you should know his address.

The 29th Division here in Camp McClellan are preparing to move in the near future. Just what date we do not know or to what embarkation point, we all are hoping that New York will be our destination from here to stay there about three weeks then

leave for, "over-there". (2)

We have had wonderful weather here for the last two months and everybody is trained down pretty well.

This section is certainly pretty now. We are surrounded by mountain chains which are heavily wooded.

Am going to try to get down to New Brunswick if I ever get the chance when at the point of embarkation. I trust, that should I be lucky enough to get away, you will be there so that I may get a little news of the Good Old College.

Today was the day set for ^[3]
Baccalaureate Sermon was
it not. I still remembered the
Sunday night that I went down
to the big Church opposite the
Post Office with the rest of my
Class. Those were the good old
days.

Thank you very much for
forwarding the enclosed letter.

Sincerely
H.E. Watt.

117

May 23, 1918

Mr. Harry E. Watt,
Medical Department,
104th Engineers,
Camp McClellan, Ala.

Dear Harry:

I am forwarding your letter to
Wallie Eakins this morning and am glad to be
able to serve you in this small way. I was glad
to have your letter of May 19th and surely hope
that you will get in to see me here at New Bruns-
wick if you should come up this way.

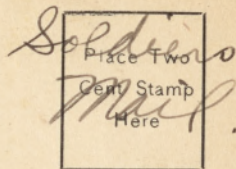
With all good luck to you, I am

Cordially yours,

ERS/W

From.
H. E. Watt
Med. Detach⁴
104th Eng'g
A. C. Fr.

POST CARD

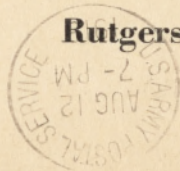


Earl Reed Silvers

Rutgers College

New Brunswick, N. J.

U. S. A.



8/7/18

Dear Silvers, -

Rec'd the last two Service letters this week. Was sure glad to get them as I have always been. You certainly are doing your bit in having it published all summer rather than take a much needed vacation. Was sorry to hear about the deaths of Sears and Reese. Reese was the last man you would think whose mind would be deranged.

Have had lots of chances to send souvenirs but don't know if they may be sent back to the U. S. or not. ~~Have not~~ met many Rutgers men lately though there may be a lot of them near here. We will all be home in a few months.

Sincerely yours. H. E. Watt.

[photocopy, original is b7H4]



LE FOYER DU SOLDAT

Union Franco-Américaine



re Friday 7/20/18
Medical Detachment
1014 Engros.
A.P. 0765 A.C. 7.

Dear Silvers, -

Was certainly glad to receive the Alumni Quarterly and War Service News Letter this last week. I have registered at the University Union in Paris (by mail) and expect to hear from some of my classmates that are in the service soon.

You are certainly doing a

wonderful work by keeping up the bi-monthly letter. I have made arrangements with my sister to send you some money for the quarterly and a little something for the maintenance of the War Service letter.

Have not met many fellows from college yet but will before the winter is over undoubtedly. I have been promoted to sergeant since my last writing which is about as high as I can go in this branch without an M. D. certificate. Should I get transferred to the Sanitary Corps I could get a commission but that is a "bomb-proof" job over here.

College is no doubt in session by this time. I wish I could drop in for a couple of days to see how the first year men like the dear old College. The first few days, as I remember them, were quite lonesome

However, that soon wears
off when one becomes
acquainted.

It will be hard for the
boys not to read the daily
papers in the early classes
since the last Allied Advance.
I imagine you people are as
anxious to read of several
successes as we are those
happenings other than where
we are.

Best regards to all

C. H.
Carl L. Linn
Lt. J. S. Linn

Sincerely
Sgt. Harry E. Watt.

October 24, 1918

Sergt. Harry E. Watt,
Medical Detachment
104th Engineers,
A.P.O. 765
Am. E.F.

Dear Harry:

It was good to get your letter of October 20th and I wish that I had time to sit down and write you all the gossip of the various men we knew in college. However I have been so busy trying to readjust our work here that there is only time for this brief acknowledgment. I congratulate you on your promotion and hope that you will enjoy the added responsibilities of your work. The latest war service letter will, I hope, give you all the news of the college. If there are any of the fellows you wish to hear about just send me a letter filled with questions and I will try to answer them.

Cordially yours,

Nov. 9, 1918

Dear "Sil," —

Your news letter dated Oct 14th reached me a couple of days ago. I enjoyed it as much as any letter I have ever received. It must seem rather queer to see all the boys about college wearing O.D. uniforms.

Was indeed sorry to hear of "Dick" Barr's death. Had I been in Paris or near there I could have had the information from the University Union.

We just came from the Verdun Front where we have been for the last five weeks. I had read about the hard positions that had to be taken there but never thought them as formidable as the really were. However, our division made a name for

itself while there and I guess
the Germans know what real
fighting men we have all along
the line. Believe me it is not
the most comfortable sensation
in the world to have those
"G-I" cans and, "Rolling Kitchens",
falling all around you, at all
times of the day and night. You
can tell Mr. Scott that had I
learned Coast. Law as quickly
as I did the ~~technique~~ of the shells
I would have had no trouble in
passing his exams.

Best regards to all

Sincerely
Harry.

From Sgt. H. E. Watt
Medical Detachment
104th Engineers
A. O. 7,
A. P. O. 765.

1st Lt. H. E. Watt
U. S. Army

From Sergt. Harry E. Watt '15

France, Nov. 9, 1918

Your news letter dated October 14th reached me a couple of days ago. I enjoyed it as much as any letter, I have ever received. It must seem rather queer to see all the boys about college wearing O.D. uniforms.

Was indeed sorry to hear of Dick Barr's death. Had I been in Paris or near there I could have had the information from the University Union.

We just came from the Verdun Front where we have been for the last five weeks. I had read about the hard positions that had to be taken there but never thought them as formidable as they really were. However, our division made a name for itself while there and I guess the Germans know what real fighting men we have all along the line. Believe me it is not the most comfortable sensation in the world to have those "G-I" cans and, "Rolling Kitchens" falling all around you, at all times of the day and night. You

can tell Dr. Scott that had I learned Constitutional Law as quickly as I did the whistle of the shell, I would have had no trouble in passing his exams.

Best regards to all,

December 3, 1918.

Sergt. Harry E. Watt,
Medical Detachment,
104th Engineers,
A.P.O. 765,
A.E.F.

Dear Harry:-

c That's an awfully long address of yours; doesn't leave much time for a real letter. But there isn't much to write about, anyhow, and not many spare moments in which to write. We're so busy around here that I'm acting as my own stenographer.

Your letter was written two days before the armistice was signed. If you can find an hour or so, write me another letter about what happened when word of the peace reached you. I am very anxious to have such record for the quarterly.

We've got a bum football team, Harry. Last Saturday Syracuse beat us, 21 to 0, on two fumbles and one blocked kick. That ended a season which promised wonderful things, but which petered out in the end.

Good luck to you, and a speedy return.

As ever,



Medical Detachment
104 Engineers
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Jan, 2 1918
[97] CP119

Dear Sil, —

I just finished reading the October issue of the Alumni Quarterly. And let me tell you frankly — I did not miss a word in it. Had I read my text books as thoroughly as I did this copy of the Quarterly, I would have been much wiser.

One thing I noticed particularly was the absence of news on the part of 1915 Class. They are not all in the service, nor are they all over in France. I intend writing to those ^{men} of my class whose addresses I have and ask them why they have not been writing to you.

The report of the 1916 Class I enjoyed, especially the news

concerning Whiles, Raven, White
and Bowles. They used to be the
"woman-haters" of their class now
the first benedicts. Such is life
in war times.

Say, "Sil," how are all the female
students? Do they hang around
old queens much or do they have
class rooms of their own? In a way
I hate to think of the old college
becoming "colored," yet since she
is to act as New Jersey University
with classes for all we must
submit. Do you know I have
never thought so much ^{before} about
my Grand Old Alma Mater as
I have in the last six or eight
months. I meet so many men
for other colleges that I usually
get many chances to boast. I
always feel as if I may hold my
head as high if not higher than

the others. Seems queer, but that is how I feel. Why is it? I contend that it was the association while at college at the proud record of the college and her men since 1766.

I am hoping that I remain in good health until I get back to the next reunion. My! how the stories will run at that time. Have not had the good fortune to meet any Rutgers men in France yet but may have that opportunity before I get back.

You asked about what I had seen in France. That is a long story and yet short. When we landed at Hoboken, thinking we were to spend 10 days at Camp Mills so that the men would have an opportunity to see relatives and friends before leaving the

states we were shipped aboard
 the Northern Pacific, where we
 stayed for two days without doing
 a thing except to look longingly
 at the New York Sky line.
 I see by today's paper that the
 Northern Pacific had grounded
 off the coast of Long Island.
 We finally left Hoboken pier
 Wednesday afternoon June 19th
 1918 not to see them again
 until ———. We landed
 in Brest, France June 26th 1918
 and marched to the old
 historic camp of Napoleon,
 Pontzen Barracks which is
 about three miles from Brest.
 After staying there six days we
 were loaded in 1st Class coaches
 and sent to a section just

AMERICAN

Y.M.C.A.

II

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

191

south of Toul. We drilled and worked around there for about ten days and was sent to the Alsacian sector which our division (29th) held from July 26th to Sept 19th. We gained a lot of experience there in the form of night raids, wire work, roads and dugout. You know of course that the Engineers are utility soldiers, prepared at all times to do anything they are called on to perform.

From the Alsacian Front the Engineers (104th) which I am attached was sent to the Argonne sector just west of the Meuse. Our duty there was building roads and bridges so that the advance with the necessary supplies could be

carried on successfully. We were camped right on the old Humberburg line. Horses, trucks and men seemed to be no object. And mud! I never saw so much mud in my life. We worked night and day there for ten days. From the Argonne we went direct to Verdun along the east bank of the Meuse. We were in the lines for 21 days that was long enough for me at one time.

In that time we handled about 4500 patients. You can imagine how busy we were. All kinds of cases, some poor fellows nearly dead, some having "gone west," before they reached us. I shall never forget the first day our dressing station was shelled.

seven of us was gassed but
 only one man wounded luckily.
 I wonder yet how it was that
 we were not all killed because
 the shells landed within a
 radius of 100 ft. with two
 ambulances, dressing stations,
 twelve patients, with medical
 men and officers in that spot.
 We had to add, "Shell Shock" or
 "N. Y. D." to several diagnosis
 tags in addition to the previous
 diagnosis, but after ten minutes
 work went on as usual because
 we did not have time to think
 of ourselves. I sometimes wonder
 how I came through without
 shock or scratch. I guess there
 were none with my name on.

After coming out of the lines
 On Oct 30th we came back into
 the vicinity of Bar-le-Duc for

two weeks. We had orders to move toward Metz the day before the Armistice was signed but the order was cancelled before we moved off. We were then in a village - Sommelonne about 12 miles south of Bar-le-Duc. We have been at Blondfontaine ten miles from Bourbonn-les-Bains since Nov. 20th with "beaucoup" mud and rain every day for the last six weeks. We are all looking forward to our home voyages in the near future which may stretch out until spring. But "C'est la guerre" and as long as we are well we cannot complain.

Sincerely
Harry E. Watt.

EDV BOND

January 31, 1919

Sergt. Harry E. Watt,
Medical Detachment,
104th Engineers,
A.P.O. 765,
Am. E.F.

Dear Harry;-

I'm glad you liked the October Quarterly. Russell Fleming is the representative of the class of 1915, but has never did have a superabundance of either pep or humor, and he hasn't done very well in getting the notes together. Perhaps, when you all come home you can elect somebody else who is in closer touch with the men.

We don't have any girls around the campus, by the way. The Woman's College is way out by the College Farm, and the students have their own faculty, classrooms, laboratories, etc. So the old Queens Campus is just the same as ever. As far as we are concerned there might just as well not be a College for Women.

I enjoyed your letter of January 2nd very much. The experiences you have undergone should be mighty valuable. Just think of all the things you will have to talk about in the next fifty years.

Good luck to you!

As ever,



Medical Detachment
ON ACTIVE SERVICE 104 Engineers
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Apr. 18 1919

1 P.M. 765

Dear 'Sil' —

Your circular for War Record was forwarded to me. I have filled it out up to date and will give you the rest when I get home which I think will be some time in June.

Sincerely Yours

Harry. Watt