

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

PENN STATE AVIATORS ANXIOUS FOR NEWS

U. S. Service,
A. E. F. France,
Dec. 19, 1917

Editor of the COLLEGIAN.
A copy of the COLLEGIAN dated November 14, landed in camp sometime within the past week and is the cause of this outburst from this side. Mail over here is an event, any mail at all is welcome even a letter from a creditor, so you can possibly imagine what the paper from school meant to the "hunch" of us from State. It is the first real form of news we've had here since the latest we've received and we surely did appreciate it—even the "ads" were of interest to us.
This is one of the largest aviation schools in France and is completely under U. S. control with the exception of the French "monitors." The men of this school are being taught to fly and, here very few exceptions, college men, men graduated from ground schools in the States and then sent here as honor men of their classes for training.
Penn State is represented here by the following men: "Whitey" Thomas, "T" "Shouty" Mendenhall '13, Roland '17, and myself.

We are all in the same squadron, came across together and have been together our entire term on this side. We all started in flying about the first of November and as yet are still very much in the game. Mendenhall and Thomas are waiting for a good day to make their "hop"—that is, their first solo flight. Roland is nearly finished with double control work which precedes the "hop." I had a start of a week on the other fellows and have made a number of flights alone, two of them very disastrous—they picked the machines up with a mop and vacuum cleaner!

Like the Work

We are all more or less pleased with this branch of the service for it is great sport, to say the least. Besides these State men here, there are several others here in France and Italy in the aviation corps. "Casey" Tom and "Nate" are in another squadron in another school; Dewey, a member of our squadron left us to go in training in Italy; while there are three others, names unknown, in another squadron at a bombing school.

At the finish of the course here, we will be sent to another school to work with faster machines, after that a course in aerobatics, and we are ready for the front. What we do depend upon our luck and ability. Some of us will have scout machines, some will serve as observers for artillery, and others as bombers. The real feeling is not what we do, but just that we do and will fly. Commissions await us at the end of the training, but most of the squadron would rather fly without a commission than not fly at all, so that is really a minor consideration.

We are all sorry to hear of the rather disastrous football season, but under the circumstances are willing to wait until this "mess" is over and then we know Penn State will come back to her own. We made several donations to W. and J. men as a result of the game, and Lengh also collected a few of the coins of the realm—but now we're just waiting for the come-back in the future for we know that it is coming. The Freshman team surely points toward something in the future unless they also get mixed up in this affair.

Want Collegian and Froth

Am starting a special letter with subscriptions to the COLLEGIAN and FROTH—we want them badly over here. Needless to say now that the COLLEGIAN is better than ever to us and—take the credit—you deserve a lot of it for keeping it even up to standard under the conditions that must exist. Our best wishes to "State" and the COLLEGIAN.

R. L. Hartman '19.
PENN STATE FORESTERS ARE
GETTING INTO THE PRAY
Co. C. 5th Infantry, 20th Eng.
Camp Belfroy, Va.
Dec. 29, 1917.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:
I received your splendid letter several days ago and certainly was pleased to hear from you. No doubt you wonder why I received it at so late a date, but it is due to the poor mail service that we have down here. It is strange that we cannot have better service. I wrote home for my boots the first day I spent here, as this is a very muddy country, but I did not receive them until last evening. We are about ten miles from nowhere and it certainly does not improve matters to have your mail off.
Had Johns (State '16) been examined with me at Washington D. C., and is acting first sergeant of my company I certainly was mighty glad to see him. Both of us are pretty busy at the present time, but whenever we have any time off we get together and talk over old times at State. I had another surprise several evenings past. I was writing a letter in the Y. M. C. A., and happened to hear a very familiar voice. There was no mistaking that voice or laugh, so I did not have to look twice to make sure that it was "Moondog" Davis '17. Tom Butley left the day I got here. There are quite a number of State men scattered thru this regiment, and the old school will be well represented when we go across.

As I said before, our camp is located about ten miles from nowhere. We are tucked away in the wilds of Virginia about seven miles from Mt. Vernon. The camp is on the south side of the Potomac River, and we get the benefit of the gentle (3) sea breezes which float up from Chesapeake Bay. Before the river froze up we received plenty to eat and our mail. However, the river froze up four days after we landed, and since that time our chuck has been very poor and mail is at a premium. There are rumors of our moving to American University soon. If such should prove to be the case I know there would be joy throughout the camp.
Well the lights are due to go out in five minutes so I'll close for the present, hoping that I will hear from you again. The Forestry Building, and hope that I wish to be remembered to Mr. Anderson and the boys that still assemble in some day I can come back and see the building in which I spent so many happy hours.
Your old pupil,
Earl A. Green '18.

FELLING TREES IN FRENCH FORESTS

American Expeditionary Forces
Dear Mr. Ferguson and boys:
I guess you think I have forgotten you in the shuffle, but I have been thinking of you and have held good intentions of writing.
I guess that I will have to start from the beginning and give a good account of myself. The trip across was without excitement, so this will take little space, but the fun started when we left England on our trip across the channel. Our squad was detached to look after the regiment's baggage and freight. We left early in the evening to make our dash across the channel, which was either to put us safely "somewhere in France," or somewhere in the English Channel. On the boat was our baggage and also a detail of Englishmen looking after a battery of artillery. We got into a French harbor early next morning but had to wait a day and a half, because of the squall that made the old tub roll like a chip. We had first class quarters, first deck below the mules. It was something like this; officers, horses and mules, soldiers, and with the only thing between the ocean and us being the engine room I can never forget the day we laid in the harbor, for I was kept busy carrying a few "Sammites" off the deck. They were too weak to walk and they laid up against the rail, wishing for a wave to wash them over and out to sea. We were at this French port about ten days. We worked on the docks during the days and slept three nights. It was the most comfortable bed that I have slept in for a good while, a cobbler stove for a pillow and one in each rib.
From there we had a day and two nights of riding to where we were to meet the boys. It was in these two nights that I had the most comfortable bath since I left the States. We used to think ourselves crowded when we slept two in a berth, coming up from Philadelphia after vacations, but this was the first time that I ever slept in a clothes rack above the seats. I certainly did overcome Newton's Law of gravitation that night.

Well, those days of travel are put down as "Experience," and now we are out in one of the French forests. I would like to find the hui who said these forests were like parks without underbrush. Every time you try to fall a tree it hangs up in the beech or oak sprigs. The paths are divided into sections about a kilometer square. Between each square is a wide fire trail. We are cutting what the French forest ranger says are Scotch White Pine. The bark looks like our Scotch, but the needles do not seem the same as ours. Most of them are small trees, eight to twelve inches and running about twenty logs to the thousand. That is what several lumber jacks estimate it at.

At present I am felling and it is great fun. We are working in crews of five, two sawyers, two swamps and a team, since I left you last June. So I guess well this is about what I have done with it. With best wishes to you all for a successful New Year, I remain
As ever
Dob
Robert H. Livingston, '19
Co. F 10th Engineers,
A. E. F.

AMIX AT CAMP MEADE TELLS MEN TO STAY IN COLLEGE

The following letter recently received by Lieut. J. O. Keller from a former Senior is good evidence of the truth of the statement that the college man must stay in college and finish his course if he expects to do the most for his country when he gets in the army:—
Camp Meade, Md.
Jan. 14, 1918.

My dear Keller,
I hope to be fortunate enough to be called before a board of examiners for a commission in the Q. M. Corps. A letter of recommendation, stating that I would have received my degree this spring would be greatly appreciated.
Preparations are being made here to move about one hundred of us to France, and those who will go, will in all probability be commissioned.
Last week I appeared before an examining board at the 30th Engineers Headquarters, to pass inspection and a preliminary examination for appointment as provisional 2nd lieutenant. My name was among those forwarded to Washington. I had been studying up mechanics, calculus, heat engines, and other subjects, and felt pretty safe the exam would not be a difficult one to pass, from one I had seen, that was given on a past date.
To day I was informed that I was disqualified because I do not have my degree. A note appended to the letter stated a section of a statute, where a degree from an approved technical school is essential, with the word "approved" underlined. So tell the boys to stick it out until they have their sheepskins. It goes a great way in the army. I am really sorry now, that I enlisted so early in the game.
Remember me to the boys, and tell them to write to me. I would appreciate a letter from them.
Trusting to hear from you, I am
Cordially,
Albert Amix '18.

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EIGHTEEN DEGREES AT MID-YEAR CONVOCATION

Dean Holmes Explains the True Meaning of Commencement to the Graduates

Eighteen degrees were conferred at the annual mid-year convocation held last Wednesday night in the Auditorium. The candidates for the advanced degrees were presented by Dean Holmes, while the various deans presented the graduates of their respective schools.
There was no outside speaker present but Dean Holmes delivered the address. His general topic was the great changes which the country has experienced on account of the war, and he dwelt on the way in which the present condition of the country should affect both the graduate and the undergraduate.

He said in part, "We are living in changing and perilous times. The world has grown serious. Our country has gone through a quiet revolution—bloodless—but nevertheless as much of a revolution as in 1776. The extension of the powers of the government has been wonderful during these times. Government management of the railroads, control of the food and fuel supplies, and compulsory military service are all new things to the United States. But, the people are not merely submitting to the changes, but are clamoring for them."
Dean Holmes then spoke briefly on the amount of education that must have been acquired by the graduates during their course at Penn State. He stated that since an instructor can speak at the rate of about one thousand words an hour and considering fifteen hours a week as an average for an instructor, in the four years the student hears about 12,000,000 words, which he is expected to take in. Then, assuming that each word is an idea, the student should acquire twelve million ideas. However, he then pointed out that with six million brain cells available, there was still opportunity for them to continue learning, or more properly to commence learning.

In speaking to the undergraduates, and commenting on the change in the semester, he asked that every one do his utmost to make this semester a successful one in all respects, and that every one try to get the spirit of the "boys over there."
In closing, he made a plea that every one make a vow that the things that you do shall be for God and for the world, who rules the affairs of the earth."

NEW INSTRUCTOR FOR SIGNAL CORPS CLASS

Upon the recommendation of Lieutenant-Colonel N. H. Slaughter, who is in charge of the Radio Division of the U. S. Signal Corps, Professor James Owen Perrine, professor of Physics at the Iowa State Teacher's College, Cedar Falls, Iowa has been offered, and has accepted, a temporary position at Penn State, as assistant professor of Electrical Engineering to give instruction to the Seniors who have entered the Signal Training course.

Professor Perrine has been granted a leave of absence from his present position, and comes to Penn State in time to assume his new duties next February first. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa, receiving the A. B. degree in 1906, and in 1916 the University of Michigan conferred upon him the degree of M. S. He was an instructor at the latter institution before accepting his present position at Iowa State Teacher's College.

FRENCH SOCIETY TONIGHT

The Cercle Francais meets this evening at seven o'clock in Old Chapel for its fortnightly hour of entertainment. This meeting will be quite different from others in that the president of the society, C. Watson Owens will join in, as other members have previously done, to be one of the entertainers of the evening. A review by the society of some of the French folk songs, under the leadership of Professor Leslie M. Burrage will conclude the program after a brief reading by Merritt.

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News From Other Colleges

PITTSBURGH

The second semester of the collegiate year at Pittsburgh University has been shortened three weeks. The commencement exercises will be held on May 31st instead of June 19th.

LAFAYETTE

Indirect dispatches from the Associated Press indicate that Ambulance Section 561, known as the Lafayette Unit, is now in France under the command of Major Devereaux.

SYRACUSE

Beginning January 14th the gymnasium of Syracuse University was ordered closed for an indefinite period because of the coal shortage. The closing of the gymnasium is a severe blow to the University athletes, it being necessary for the "varsity basketball team to suspend practice until a suitable floor can be secured in the city. The library will be closed evenings.

WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON

Unable to meet the increasing war prices on food, the board of trustees of Washington and Jefferson College ordered the college dining hall closed after the Christmas holidays.

PENNSYLVANIA

Over one thousand undergraduates of the University of Pennsylvania gathered in Houston Hall on January 14th and passed a resolution urging that the faculty present reasons for the admission of women to all departments of the University before taking action upon the matter. The sentiment of the student body seemed to be in favor of the establishment of a separate institution for the women students.

CORNELL

The Board of Trustees of Cornell University has recently ruled that the 136 Juniors in Sibley College of Engineering devote the summer of 1918 to a third term of instruction in order that they may graduate in February of 1919. According to present plans approximately ten days will be allowed between terms and a week or more for Independence Day.

GET A DIRECTORY AND WORK IT OUT YOURSELF

A Porter, who had received a sound rap on the knoll, which therefore was taken as an idea, the student should acquire twelve million ideas. However, he then pointed out that with six million brain cells available, there was still opportunity for them to continue learning, or more properly to commence learning.
In speaking to the undergraduates, and commenting on the change in the semester, he asked that every one do his utmost to make this semester a successful one in all respects, and that every one try to get the spirit of the "boys over there."
In closing, he made a plea that every one make a vow that the things that you do shall be for God and for the world, who rules the affairs of the earth."

TRAINING OF DEBATING TEAMS IN AT STANDSTILL

The training of the several debating teams by Professor Marshman for participation in the various intercollegiate debates is practically at a standstill due to the fact that the secretary of the Intercollegiate Debating League has not as yet informed Professor Marshman as to the sides which the remainder of the colleges composing the League have chosen. On this account, it is practically impossible for any real work to be done other than the preliminary training which the squad is now going through. The failure to receive this decision has set back the training to a great extent and as matters now stand, there will not be any more than sufficient time for acquiring a thorough knowledge of the proposition before the first of the series of debates will be held.

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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY TO HOLD DANCE

At the meeting of the E. E. Society held last Friday evening, it was decided to hold a dance at a date to be announced later. It will be open to the students of all four classes taking either electrical or electro-chemical engineering. Alfred Ehrlich '18 was appointed chairman of a committee to look after the arrangements for the event. The election of the officers for the coming semester resulted in the selection of P. J. F. Derr '18, as president, C. M. Skooglund '19, vice-president, J. P. Kray '18 secretary, C. M. Tomlinson '18, treasurer, H. W. Taylor '19, junior assistant treasurer, and H. A. Billig '18, sergeant-at-arms.

GLEE CLUB PLEASES MANY

The Glee Club Concert last Sunday was very well attended and the Auditorium was crowded. The selections by the Glee Club were all very well rendered, while the two solos by Miss Emma Kiess and the violin duet by Charles Dwork '15, and Mrs. Eldenour, were greatly appreciated. The program itself was quite elaborate, as it contained short sketches on each of the selections.

"BILL" WOOD TO SPEAK

AT COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
William W. Wood, Dean of the Two Year Agricultural students, will speak to the members and guests of the Cosmopolitan Club at their meeting in room 226 Main Building tomorrow night at seven o'clock on the "Philosophy of Cosmopolitanism." A social meeting of the club members was held last Wednesday night in the Old Main Club room.

CHAUTAUQUA LECTURES BY FACULTY MEMBERS

Those fraternities and clubs who last year availed themselves of the opportunity to hear one of the lecture courses in the Chautauqua circuit given by various members of the Faculty, will be interested to know that, under the direction of Dean Holmes a similar series of weekly talks is being arranged for this year. These lectures will be given before any fraternity, club or group of twenty or more persons. The course extending from February 1st to April 1st.

Members of the Faculty desiring to participate in this course are respectfully requested to turn in their names at Dean Holmes' office. Groups wishing to arrange for speakers and subjects should make inquiry at the Dean's office as soon as possible, requests for speakers being considered in the order received.

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