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Wofford College News Letter September 1944

Wofford College

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Dear Alumnus in Uniform:

This letter is the last in Volume II and is the 12th we have written to you since October, 1942, when approximately 300 received a two-page mimeographed letter.

Until this issue, the letter has been sent to you every two months. From now on it will reach you quarterly. More and more of the letters are being sent overseas. We hope that by the time the next one is sent to you, most of you will be much closer home.

FROM PRESIDENT GREENE

We asked Dr. Greene to tell you about the improvement program at Wofford. Here is what he has to say.

It occurs to me that you might be interested in reading about the progress we are making in our program of promotion and rehabilitation. This program involves something like a million dollars and comes to its culmination in 1954—the year that marks the hundredth anniversary of the founding of our College.

At the present time we have progressed approximately one-fifth of the way to our goal. Marion District provided the funds for the remodeling of Snyder Hall; Orangeburg District for the remodeling of Carlisle Hall; Spartanburg District is raising the funds to beautify the campus; and the other eight districts of South Carolina Methodism are pledging the funds to build a Student Activities Building and a War Memorial Chapel. The Student Activities Building will probably be erected on the ground lying between Science Hall and the Library. The War Memorial Chapel will be built on a plot of ground recently purchased and extending from the main gate to Calhoun Street.

Funds are coming in to endow a Chair of Religion and Philosophy in memory of Dr. Carlisle and a Chair of English Language and Literature in honor of Dr. Snyder.

The old S. C. A. building will be transformed into a new science hall to house the departments of geology and geography and of biology.

It is our purpose to add two wings to the present Library in order to provide much needed space for additional books and a more adequate reading room.

Main Building, of course, is to be remodeled when the funds become available. It will be given a new coat and a new inside.

We have a new Infirmary equipped in the most modern manner.

Our plans, also, call for a swimming pool to be added to Andrews Field House.

There are several other projects which round out the total program, such as the increase in endowment, the establishment of more endowed scholarships for worthy students, and the Living Endowment sponsored by the Alumni for the purpose of establishing a retirement fund for teachers.

You have not, as yet, been called on to share in this program of development, although quite a few of you have voluntarily responded to the Living Endowment. Neither is this description given you by me of the progress we are making to be interpreted by you as a call of your Alma Mater for aid at this time. You have a more important job to do right now for your beloved country. When it is all over over there and you return to this glorious haven of freedom, that will be the proper time for you to think of how you may best show your affection for your College. No one who carries on in your absence has any doubt about the ultimate proof of your affection.

W. K. GREENE, President.

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUS

President Greene took a short, well-earned vacation in July at the home of his daughter in Alliance, Ohio. He tells us the rehabilitation program is coming along nicely. ... Dean Horton is teaching in summer school (both terms) as well as acting as dean of the summer school. ... Mr. Davis is "sticking to his knitting" in the treasurer's office as you would expect him to. ... Dr. DuFrey, Dr. Wallace, Professor Salmon, and Professor Bourne are at their homes on the campus. Professor Salmon and Professor Bourne will teach part time at Converse this fall. We understand that Dr. Wallace is about to finish his one-volume history of South Carolina. ... Dr. Chiles still likes a good movie, good music, and good talk. He will be at the college in September to teach what French and German students there are. ... Professor Pettis and Professor Shuler taught in the summer school. Dr. Walker will be at the Junior college this fall. ... Professor Patterson (this really deserves a very special page all by itself) was married in July to Miss Harriet Julienne of Spartanburg.

We
know you join with all of us here in wishing him and his wife the kind of happiness they both deserve. . . . Dr. Tennis is in training for work with the American Field Service's Red Cross. He is at a camp somewhere in the south and will probably be overseas before very long.

Professor Neshitt, and Dr. Cauthen worked in various parts of the state for the rehabilitation program during the month of July. . . . Professor Trawick is teaching in the summer school. You may have already heard that he is a proud grandfather now.

There were 83 enrolled in the first session of summer school, approximately 75 percent of those underclassmen who are staying on for the second session. There may be as many as one hundred students for the regular session, but officials do not expect much more.

The campus family was saddened this summer by the death of Dr. Snyder's daughter. She was at her father's home at the time of her death.

Dr. Pugh is in New England, where his wife is a physician at a summer camp. . . . The editor of this sheet is still acting editor of the Journal, afternoon daily in Spartanburg. He says he likes the work in the registrar's office and is happy he has been able to continue the entry way between the president's and treasurer's office can still "pass the time of day" with- and usual, he feels the theme has changed. She still manages to keep the library neat and quiet. She says it's too quiet now! . . . Mrs. Holmes ("Mom" to those of you who stayed at Snyder while she was there) is back at the college looking after her boys, and liking it. They all pretty young these days . . . Cap'n Jones is still keeping the campus folks straight as well as protecting the property. . . . Coach Petoskey is playing baseball with Birmingham this summer, he we'll be back in the fall . . . Captain Culler, commanding officer of the R. O. T. C., conducted a summer session of the company, believing, since the war began. The R. O. T. C. will continue next fall.

. . . On July 12 in the college chapel a plaque and service flag were placed on the wall in honor of all of you in the service. Dean Norton said some very nice things about you, all of them, we think, you wouldn't quote him.

40th C. T. D. NO MORE

On June 30 the last contingent of the AAF students left us. They were gone, too, in more ways than one. We hope we did them some good, too. Anyway, they were a decent and considerate lot, and we think you would have liked them, too.

The officers, too, are gone, except two or three who are staying over a while to help the government "settle the books." Most of the officers have been with us since the unit was established. Consequently we came to know and care for them, just as well as the non-commissioned—as part of Wofford. Certainly they fitted into our ways.

We asked Major Hexter to write you a personal note, as their commanding officer. Major Hexter, the genial and efficient commanding officer of the 40th C. T. D., has been "on the ball," not only as "the man with the beam" from the first day he got here. The more we learn about the reputation this unit has made is in large measure due to his ability and that of his fellow officers and the permanent party. Here is his letter to you:

While you have been away to the wars, your venerable campus has been kept by a band of irreverent foreigners! They came as sleepers—thoroughly imbued with the superiority of their discomfiture on the wrong side of the Mason-Dixon line. Nor were they made easier victims of our Southland charms by their four to five hour drive in Carl Hall, or by covering in three months as much physics as is normally covered here in approximately a year and a quarter. Furthermore, they had the preconceived notion that the South was a land of peaceful leisure. In his dedication, aircrew, and pistol-packin' Mama with a song entitled "Let That Bull Whip Down, Petoskey." All in all, there were quite a few obstacles not included in Coach Petoskey's obstacle course, which went by the name of the Burma Road (running parallel to Cleveland Street behind the homes of Dr. Snyder and Dr. Wofford.

Perhaps the initial crack in their frothy at- titudes occurred just after their first mess in Wofford dorms and Maggie, averaging twenty-five year college service, swept the field in a surprise attack of flavor and variety. And the public-speaking classes helped, too, with their ability to lure the wild-legged Gentlemen blow off much of their pent-up steam.

But—while I need not tell you who have been afforded its benefits—it was the spirit of Wofford that was winning the campus spring. It was the kindly wisdom of Dr. Snyder in his daily contacts on the campus with groups of three and four and five students. It was the intense vire of Professor Pettis and the drawing humor of Professor Coates. It was Dean Norton's amiability, the lieutenants, who had assaulted every four weeks during graduation exercises. All of the faculty, the business department, and the registrar's office did their parts. Further than in this a description of the personality of Wofford, I cannot nor need not go. Sufficient to say, the invaders became converts. They came to scoff and departed to spread the glory of Wofford's traditions. In evidence of this is Exhibit A—a file of letters from pilots, bombardiers, gunners, and other men who had passed through Wofford College to become self-appointed alumni more than 1,800 strong.

Just how these synthesized Woffordites—products of the Wofford atmosphere—resemble you bona fide alumni of a more leisurely production schedule, can be judged by their numerous moment's thoughts, which are known to be directed to a prevention of the war of 1970.

Dr. Wallace and Dr. Cauthen in their history classes and Dr. Neshitt and Professor Bourne in their geography classes have impressed upon young and receptive minds the need of avoiding the next war. . . . No concrete plans were ever offered for consideration, but the question, "What are you personally going to do to maintain peace once it is won?" has been raised in a va- num of ways during the past six months. As surely as you, who have met the enemy in the flesh, are fighting for peace and realize your personal obligations to make that peace permanent after winning it, the same上官 feel their obligations to do the same.

They evidence the same spirit of service that is evidenced in enrollment of Wofford's sons in the armed forces, and they reflect the same mature attitudes in considering world conditions as a basis for prevention of another war.

Some of you who will return to Wofford may meet men of the Air Forces who served here and who will return to complete their interrupted studies. When you do, you will be given fresh evidence of the wise and kindly spirit that, thanks to Dr. Greene, has made the college one of the most satisfying to the officers and men of the permanent party and the aircrew-student body. In the meantime, Wofford students can well be proud of Wofford's contributions to the nation—in war, and for peace.

A. N. H. EXETER
Major, AAF

IN DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY

Ner shall their glory be forgot
While fame receives its keeps
And Honour points the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps.

ADDITIONS TO MEN-IN-SERVICE LIST
1st Lt. Lafayette Adams, '37, A
2nd Lt. Douglas C. Anderson, '40, A
Pvt. M. K. Fort, '41, A
Pvt. J. L. Harris, '44, A
Lt. (jg) Thos. W. Herbert, '29, N
Lt. (jg) Samuel H. Jaudon, '46, N
2nd Lt. Adolphus A. McLeod, '36, A
Lt. D. E. McLeod, '36, A
Lt. E. E. McLeod, '32, Marines
Ensln Donald N. Smith, '36, N
Ensln Clyde E. Wall, Jr., '45, NAC
Major Miles W. Whitley, '31, A
Major Cecil B. Lawter, '35, AAF (Chaplain)
A/S Chauncey W. Lever, '46, N
Chaplain Wm. E. Rowe, A
Pfc. Vernon D. Schroder, AAF
Pfc. Simon F. Parrott, Jr., A
J. W. Blanton, Jr., S. 2/c, '46, N

DECORATIONS
So far in this war thirty-four Wofford men have received the following thirty-seven decorations. Below is the latest list of additions. If you know of anyone who has not been listed as having been decorated, please let us know.

1st Lt. Harwood Beebe, Jr.—Air Medal, 2 Oak Leaf Clusters (a B-25 pilot, he flew 48 missions in Mediterranean Theatre)
Lt. Herbert C. Hicks—DSC (for action in France on D-Day)

1st Lt. John E. Bomar—2nd Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal (for action in SWP)
T/Sgt. Thos. O. Melton—Legion of Merit (for action in Guadalcanal, August to October, 1943.)
Lt. Edward B. Turner—Recommended for Air Medal, Navy Cross, and DFC for action in SWP.
Lt. Richard C. Kemm, Jr.—DFC, Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster (for action in SWP)
Lt. Laurie T. Hartzog, Jr.—Air Medal (for action in Italy)
S/Sgt. Francis R. Capers—Air Medal (for action over continental Europe)
S/Sgt. James M. Isom—Bronze Medal (for action in Italy)
Lt. John H. Franks—Aid Medal (for helping sink four Japanese vessels off Paramusiro in May)
Lt. Laurie T. Hartzog, Jr.—Air Medal (for action in Italy)
T/Sgt. Vernon D. Schroder—Air Medal, 5 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters (for action in Italy)

T/Sgt. Wm. P. Buxman, '40—Reported killed in action at St. Lo, July 24, 1944

ITEMS ABOUT YOU
We acknowledge with grateful thanks financial contributions from the following: Lt. Guy Wilkes, Jr. (recently reported killed), Capt. Wm. M. McLeod, '21—Died in Columbia, S. C. in June, 1944. He had received a medical discharge from the Army in May, after active service in North Africa and Sicily.
Major Frank C. Hodges, '29—Killed in action in Burma-India theatre, March 22, 1944.
Capt. Ralph S. Bryant, '37—Killed in action over occupied Europe on April 29, 1944.
Capt. Wm. P. Buxman, '40—Reported killed in action at St. Lo, July 24, 1944
western invasion on D-Day. He is a petty officer, 3rd class, and the mine sweeper he was on sunk.

Second Lieutenant Adolphus A. McLeod, '36, at Lawsonville, N. C.

First Lieutenant John Earl Bomar, '40, returned in June from the Southwest Pacific, New Guinea theatre. He was wounded in aachte and was in the hospital for over a month before he was sent back to the States. He has been overseas and is in New Guinea now in the South Pacific.


Captain Jasper M. Isom, '34, stationed at Hendrix Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Capt. R. W. Todd, '36, stationed at an airfield in England. Pvt. W. S. Dowis, Jr., '45, is with the 31st Field Artillery Division in France, serving in Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

Captain Turner M. (Mac) Smith, '33, was recently pictured in "Life" magazine reviewing a color guard with Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley. Capt. H. E. Leach, '35, stationed at Hendrix Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

First Lieutenant Herbert Dukes, Jr., '34, is now at APO 790 in Italy, where many American airmen are stationed. Chaplain (cap.) James H. H. Warren, '35, is at APO 827, New Orleans.


I was assigned to Wheeler for basic training, the completion of which I was stationed in the control tower for a month, and then was promoted to a higher position. I have now been stationed in the control tower for a month. I have now been stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.
Guinea, and us. Then, too, it is a party line and the natives and Japs wouldn’t get any kick out of the message. The only way left was to call somebody in theAAF and I believe I could quite make it go to S.C. I was very interested in the Wofford News Letter. It gives facts—about a few a week, I met with Verne C. Roper, APO 322-1, San Francisco, Calif. (May).

I’m pretty busy flying this old transport of mine. I’ve now had nearly 1500 hours of combat flying time. I got married just after my graduation as a flying officer in the AAF. We spent five very happy months together before I came out here thirteen months ago.

1st Lt. Richard C. Kenman, Jr., 14, FPO 713, Unit 1 (SWP) (June).

My leg is taking its time about regaining its strength, so I’m now on “light duty” for several weeks. I’ve left the hospital, but it will still be a long time before I can really fly. In the interim I get a chance to do a little sightseeing on my own. I’ve finally run into another Wofford man. I met Dave Evans, with whom I used to shop for coffee in Berea. He is in the 84th Division and we really had a full session checking up on the other fellows.


I have left the New Hebrides, the South Pacific front and headed north to fresher pastures.

Happily, it won’t be too long now (I keep telling them). I am back in my element, more exciting than I can comfortably use. But no matter how exciting the work, it is always a pleasure to get the latest News Letter.

There is a lot of news. I am supposed to describe the scenery in Espiritu Santo (Lee Wofford spent several years in Efate, a few hundred miles away), and I’m sure he feels the same way I do. I just love it. Really, there are only places that are more beautiful and colorful than the pineapple jungle. There is only the drawback of flies, mud and mosquitoes. I’ll take Singapore and Borneo any day.

Capt. Dean S. Hartley, Jr., 41, USCMR, VMB, FPO, San Francisco (July).

Just a few days ago I met an old classmate in this area (SWP) and we talked until late that night about good old Wofford. As for myself, I have been around quite a bit in the past two months. I have seen many wonderful sights and many very horrible ones. I have been in quite a bit of action.

Some of my disappointments was when Wofford dropped athletics. I hope it can be resumed even in a larger field after the war. While at Wofford I played under J. L. Carson, two wonderfull games, and also under Major B. W. Rushton in high school. With four years under these men, I never heard of them using in any way dirty playing or dirty players.


Captain Julius E. Clark, Jr., is at APO 9, New York. He has been a frequent visitor in the News Letter and almost every name from ’39 to ’42. What a thrill and wonderful memories each one I remember gives me! We are running about the big hospital in this area, and I am proud of our outfit and the work it is doing.


As you see, I am in Italy—like it much better than Africa, although I would not take anything for my experiences there.

An interesting place I have visited (one among many) was Pozzuoli, where St. Paul landed in Italy.

I was grieved to hear of Cullen Bryant’s death. He was from near Mullins, my old hometown. I went and saw him at a hospital and he came back to me on his way to Italy. He was a fine man.

1st Lt. Herbert Hucks, Jr., 34, APO 790, N.Y.

I’m still looking for a Wofford man here in the SWP. No luck so far. Although he doesn’t know it, I narrowly missed seeing Sheldon Dannelly some months ago. He is over in New Guinea from tip to toe, and a good many of the adjacent islands, since leaving Australia. Since the first of the year, I’ve participated in many of the39-42. After returning from the Philippines, I’ve had quite a bit of work to do. I’m sure that we are more than capable of the task. And we will have had more than a few close calls. Best wishes for Wofford’s continued successful operation.

Lt. Horace Carter, Jr., APO 920, San Francisco (June).

Some of the letters in every issue are from the boys I knew while at Wofford, and it is great to hear about their experiences since being in service. I have heard from a few friends since November of 1942, having spent about eleven months in North Africa and six months in Italy. I was on the Anzio Beachhead a great part of the time that I was there, but much of the time I was not there. I thought that I could have visited him, but did not know at the time that he was there. I have been in Rome, which is a very beautiful city. I’m not sure I had the pleasure of seeing a Wofford man since leaving the states. I am hoping to be back in school at the same time next year.


I am still in San Francisco, but expect to be on my way before very long. My flotilla is composed of LCT’s. I expect everything to be quite different this time—the day of the “poor man’s war” seems to be over. It won’t be hard to get used to plenty, but I really would like to be in the East—if it is possible to have thinking about mud, foxholes, and hiking, and then to change my mind.

Major C. E. Stearns, ’37, Gunter Field, Alabama (May).

I have just received the latest issue of the News Letter, and enjoyed it. I am happy to report about my old classmates and the fellows I knew at Wofford. They are doing a great work.


(Ed. Note: A news release sent us about Sgt. Kelley says in part: “Now a classification specialist of an Air Force Recruiting team traveling twenty-five states, was recommended by a look at a number of Wofford men by the Air War Recruiting team, Sergeant Kelley has this to say, ‘Classifying men for the AAF was a good job, but this new assignment has its advantages. The scenery is better.’”)

Just received my June News Letter, and was very happy to hear that dear old Wofford won’t be closed, regardless of conditions. I’m now in the midst of basic flying, which, incidentally, I am greatly! I have been stationed at Miami Beach and Miami. I have been to Orlando, Tallahassee, Boston, Buffalo, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, St. Louis, and Dallas. I am here now and have seen only one Wofford man.

A. C. Dewey B. Netles, 44, Class 44 1, Box 313, USAAF, AC Det. Perrin Field, Sherman, Texas.

Please put my name on the mailing list of your Wofford Service man’s News Sheet. I am very interested in keeping up with all Wofford men and classes.


In 1941 I got as far as San Francisco on my way to the Philippines when war broke out. After six months with the infantry, I spent another eight months in the hospital, before getting into a broken back and skul—result of a jeep accident. Since then I have been on limited service and have sent one ROTC instructor at the University of California at Los Angeles. Presently I am in the Training division of the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation. I have been married four months.

I spent all my happy living in Westwood Village, but am still anxious to get back to South Carolina to see you all! I certainly would be glad to see one of my boys I know at Wofford, so tell him to look me up if they’re ever in Los Angeles.


I am now stationed at a surgical technician’s school at Billings General Hospital near Ina, Indiana. It was swell receiving my first News Letter. I am on limited service because of my left foot. I am in the hospital now with malaria. This makes my first letter sound dull, but of course I am sorry to hear that the boys have not received their letters. I heard from Harry Howley, ’42, and he said he went by Wofford just a few days ago. Carlisle has a letter of this one last week, jut wrote me after having a very interesting 52-day stay at a point of the globe as pilot of a C-47. Lt. Carl E. Bailey, ’42, Emergency Rescue School, Keeler Field, Miss. (May).

I finally got out of O’Reilly and am now at Camp Fannin, Texas. I am on limited service because of my left foot. I am in the hospital now with malaria. This makes my first letter sound dull, but of course I am sorry to hear that the boys have not received their letters. I heard from Harry Howley, ’42, and he said he went by Wofford just a few days ago. Carlisle has a letter of this one last week, jut wrote me after having a very interesting 52-day stay at a point of the globe as pilot of a C-47. Lt. Carl E. Bailey, ’42, Emergency Rescue School, Keeler Field, Miss. (May).

Lt. Bakers Lucas, 40, Camp Fannin, Texas (July).

I am still stationed at Fort Pierce, Florida. I am still in command of what is com-"
... If you only knew how much it means to hear from so many people at one mail call—on one large sheet of paper! ... As far as I know, there are no Wofford men on this aircraft carrier—certainly none from Spartanburg or I would have recognized them; however, there are a lot of men aboard, so one or two may be lurking somewhere. ...


... I'm at a school for radio operators. I've been here since June 7 and will be here, if all goes as scheduled, until the middle of October. It is rather monotonous wearing earphones and pounding a typewriter or hand sending with a key day after day. My year of physics makes the little theory that you get quite a "breeze."

We live in a hotel—a summer resort in the mountains of Pennsylvania. There is an excellent golf course and some tennis courts here, but we have little time to use them.

S. 2/c Donald H. Fraser, '46, NTS, Bedford, Pa. (August).

... You may be interested to know that Sgts. William F. Mabry and Guy D. Adams and Cpl. William H. Alexander, all of the class of '45, are with me and have the same temporary address as I.

I haven't seen any other Wofford men, but I certainly would like to run into some of my former schoolmates. ... My love for the old school has not faded a bit. The men—both professors and students—with whom I was associated gave me a kindred spirit with Wofford that time and distance cannot break. The Alma Mater, when I hum or sing it to myself, still clasps my heart and makes me walk with pride. . . .

Cpl. Dan S. Ferguson, '43, APO 15335, N. Y. (Italy) (Aug.)