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Wofford College News Letter June 1945

Wofford College

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DEAR ALUMNUS IN UNIFORM:

At this writing, May 10, the European part of the war is over. By the time this is mailed, therefore, some of you in the States—probably many of you—will be on your way home, or to the Pacific. And so, we are sending a larger number of letters this time to your home addresses.

Because there is such a great amount of news this time about you, we shall have to telecope the news from the home front. Anyway sometime in July, Dr. Greene and Dr. Lever will return to the campus and will get a detailed outline of what is being planned for Wofford in the years after the war.

GRADUATION: Only two or three graduates (two or three others in the summer)—simple commencement exercises at night. Time: June 1.

SUMMER SCHOOL: As usual. A lot of teachers expected to enroll on account of the re-certification program. Dates: June 7-July 12; July 12-August 16.

THE FACULTY: Remember how they looked when you were here? Well, we haven't changed much—the younger ones have a little more gray hair and the older ones are getting a little punier. Drop in to see them or call them up when you are in town—they like it. Miss Woodward was elected vice-president of the South Carolina Collegiate Register's association in April. As you know, Major Cox is in Greensboro and Capt. Loftin is in Maryland. Lt. Stanbury is in Alaska and Dr. Tennis (Red Cross work) is in France. (We quote from a letter from Dr. Tennis in another place.) You'll want to read "What Are You Doing These Days?" on pages 5 and 15 of the April 26 issue of the Southern Christian Advocate. It's by Dr. Snyder. We wish we had room to quote it.

ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT

President Greene is Chairman of the Crusade Council in the Upper South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. This conference has just completed the raising of $280,000 for the Crusade.

President Greene has been making addresses in various parts of the state on Layman's Day. He also has several engagements to deliver commencement addresses in May.

Nor is that all. Work is working as hard as ever on plans for the postwar Wofford. We keep telling you he's going to do what he set out to do—maintain the finest of the Wofford traditions and build a better physical plant for the school. The next time you are on the campus, drop into his office to see him, and you'll understand what we mean.

HERE IT IS

After writing the above, we got hold of the following statement from President Greene:

The Program of Development for Wofford College will involve an expenditure of $1,500,000, and a total of $1,000,000 of which has been raised thus far in pledges and gifts from alumni and friends of the college.

In the program, certain significant improvements will be made on the campus. This college has purchased the city block, fronting North Church Street and extending from the Main Gate to Calhoun Street. All campus roads will be hard-surfaced and furnished with proper drainage. A modern lighting system will be installed on the campus.

The Main Building, Carlisle Hall, and the present ROTC Building will be remodeled and furnished with the most modern conveniences and equipment.

The present Snyder and Arch Hallers will be torn down to make room for a new dormitory, to be called Snyder Hall, which will house 100 students. Another dormitory to accommodate 100 students will be built beyond the Library.

On the recently purchased block will stand a War Memorial Chapel and a new science building. The new building houses the departments of geology, geography, and biology. This will give space in the John B. Cleveland Science Hall for the departments of applied mathematics, chemistry, and physics.

Between the present Science Hall and the Library, a Student Activities Building will be constructed. It will include a reception room, offices for student organizations, a coffee shop, a private dining room, a college store, a post office, a game room, a living room, and rooms in which alumni and friends of the college can stay over night.

The Library will be enlarged by the addition of two fireproof wings. One wing will include a Treasure Room, The Doctor J. Thomas Pate Memorial Room for the use of the literary society, and the Carlisle Memorial Library. The other wing will be used as a periodical and reserved reading room.

An Audubon Field House will be enlarged to include a swimming pool, two classrooms, a room for corrective gymnastics, and offices for the staff of physical education.

On the recently acquired block will stand a War Memorial Chapel and a new science building to house the department of geology, geography, and biology. The new building will be made to accommodate 100 students.

Several classrooms will be added, and the plan of the original steps will be restored.

During the present year, the college will undertake to build two new dormitories in South Carolina, alumni in South Carolina, and alumni throughout the nation, $800,000.00 for the achievement of its program of development.

MEMORIAL ROOM

In the Memorial Chapel that is being planned (It's going to be built, too!), a special room is to be set aside for mementos, relics, and souvenirs of World War II.

President Greene asks me to say to you that if you have any souvenirs of any kind that you would like to contribute, including pictures, see them along. Be sure to send along with them dates, facts about the souvenir, and your own connection with them.

It is the editor's notion, for example, the pictures, of course, but if a relic can illustrate anything inside—where Wofford men have been or will be—may be an interesting part of the exhibit. There might be some very, very empty shell casings. What do you think?

AMONG THE STUDENTS

We asked Morrell Thomas, '46, until recently in the army but now back at the college to tell you a little of what is going on around the campus from the student's point of view. Here it is:

Boys leaving almost weekly for the service . . . Terriers have one victory under their belt.
DECORATIONS

Major Peter R. Moody, '37—DFC, Air Medal and 16 Oak Leaf Clusters for action over Europe.

Captain H. S. McChesney, 36—Bronze Star for meritorious service and Combat Infantryman’s badge for action in the Pacific.


Captain C. E. Burnett, '39—Silver Star for action on Western Front.


Lt. Robert M. Courtney, '41—Air Medal for action in European theatre.

Cpl. Harold J. Reel, '46—Air Medal for action over Europe.

1st Lt. Haley F. Thomas, '44—Silver Star for action in Germany, 1945.


Capt. Wm. H. Hall, '39—Bronze Star for “meritorious service” in Nov. 29 to Dec. 16, 1944, and (evacuating casualties under heavy fire).

Capt. George E. Tate, '41—Bronze Star for “heroic achievement in action” against the enemy in Germany.

M/Sgt. E. J. McCreery, '44—Bronze Star for action in European theatre.


2nd Lt. Volney B. Byars, '41—Silver Star awarded posthumously for “fearlessly exposing himself to machine gun fire” while directing the fire of tanks at key targets.


Capt. Hugo Sims, Jr., '41—DSC, Silver Star, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Presidential Unit Citation with Cluster for action in Holland and Germany.

Capt. John W. Shuler, '41—Bronze Star for action in Italy.


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IN DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY

Dr. Ralph Dodge, missionary from Africa, speaking in chapel and at SCA. Dr. Greene continues his occasional brief talks and “student” day is every Thursday. Dr. Norton reprimanding men for “communing with nature” after the last bell.

Bicycles mysteriously found at the top of the chapel steps goes up every day.... Boys throwing rocks, during vacant periods, and barely missing certain professors. Two long shadows in Dr. Chiles’ room inexplicably left the room. Norton conducting classes in Dr. Wallace’s “cavern.”

A wastepaper basket burning outside the main building and disrupting classes.

Prof. Herbert’s grandson’s ducking seen, tied with a string, on the lawn. Coach Petoskey putting his team and gym classes to work on the basketball field and tennis courts. 9291 still as busy as ever. Spartan high school games give you a kick. Rock Zoo, etc., a close run (75% freshmen) Coach’s father visiting on the campus and playing ball with the Terriers.

An R.O.T.O. party and square dance being planned. Invitations ordered by seniors. Teacher’s exam held for seniors. Reorganization of the Baptist Student Union with Walker Ford as proxy.

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FOR THE STATISTICALLY MINDED

The following figures may interest you:

There are nearly 1500 Wofford men in uniform. There are considerably more than 1500 if we count the men we have been told, are in service, but about whom we are not certain. Our guess is that the number is nearly 1700. 53 have lost their lives, among whom are 9 priests, 4 corporals, 2 lieutenants, 8 captains, 3 majors, 2 ensigns, 1 aviation cadet. They lost their lives in Burma (2), in China (1), here in the states (9), in the Pacific (7), in Italy (2), on the Western Front (26).
CONTRIBUTIONS

ITEMS ABOUT YOU

FROM YOUR LETTERS

A LETTER FROM DR. TENNIS

Your December issue of the News Letter was forwarded to me recently, and before I could go to sleep I had to read every word of it. I noticed a scarcity of men from the class of '27. (Will some of the other twenty or more men of the class of '27 write to us and to Capt. Lattimer?) I have seen only two Wofford men since I have been in Italy. One is Col. N. T. Williams. The other is Capt. Samuel, '28, and Capt. C. J. Lattimer, '27. What about some more letters like the December one? From "somewhere in France"—as loyal as ever to Wofford.

T. H. Waikiki Beach is not what one would expect from the descriptions I have read. It was a pleasure to meet Paul Dunbar, 25, since I arrived here. He is the only Wofford man I have seen.

Lt. Col. Ralph S. Owings, 24, (Feb.)

The News Letter is most enjoyable and is especially welcome over here in Italy where we have not yet come across any of my old Wofford acquaintances. I have visited many interesting and historic places both here and in North Africa, but the return to the good old USA will be a happy moment.

Jack W. Bowman, 26
APO 520, N. Y., (Jan.)

It's been a while since I've written to any of you. I've been busy and I'm interested in the old Alma Mater is still as strong as the day I left it. The News Letter has been wonderful to me, and I have a few Wofford men here and I have some letters. My best regards to all of you at Wofford from all of us in the ETO.

Lt. Raymond L. Dennis, 41
APO 339, N. Y. (March)

I'm writing this to inquire about the News Letter. Back in the states I always got my copy through my home address, but since I left the States (Oct. 13) I haven't received one. I'm looking forward to receiving future copies of the News Letter. We do hear that the paper is going to be published in getting to you, but we send them all at once always about ten days before the beginning of the month they are dated.

Pfc. C. J. Lattimer, 27
APO 149, N. Y. (Jan.)

Wofford men are certainly scattered all over this earth now. While in a hospital in England I ran into Billy Watson, who had been wounded in action. In the same battalion with me is Major Newton, 37. I hope to return to Wofford as soon as this is over and complete my studies.

Pfc. William H. Gillespie, 45
APO 78, N. Y. (March)

I am in a military police unit and after some time in Oran, North Africa, and Naples, Italy, we are now in Northern Italy. I am a first sergeant.

W. Douglas Hartley
APO 794, N. Y. (March)

W. H. Alexander, 45, and I have been keeping in contact with each other through the old Wofford News Letter. And back in September I gave a copy to David Evans, '43. Best regards to my friends in Spartanburg.

W. Douglas Hartley
APO 794, N. Y. (March)

The News Letters mean a lot to us men overseas, especially... I'm here in France for a cannon company. I haven't seen any Wofford
men over here yet, but when I read each issue of the News Letter, I feel as though I were talking to the boys... I'm looking forward to coming back after the war.

Pfc. G. F. Hughston, '44, APO 129 N. (March)

It did my heart good to be able to address this letter to the old school this morning... The December issue of the Letter was received on Christmas Day in England. It was like a short visit home to read it... I haven't run across too many Wofford men, but upon reading the March issue I see that there are a great many mighty close friends and home in the same army with me... I am looking forward to a reunion on the familiar Wofford campus...

Lt. W. K. Thompson, Jr., '43, APO 143 N. (March)

Greetings from Paris, where, since I have to be overseas somewhere, naturally I'm glad to be... The News Letter gets more interesting with each issue... so keep it up, but I hope the war's end will "put you out of business" although you must keep up some such letter after the war... I had a trip I'll never forget—from March 10th to a furlough after returning home—ed. I've been pretty lucky... My outfit and I are quite proud of the fact that my company is in England, and I hope that in the not so distant future, I may return and finish...

Lt. Henry V. Frick, '44, APO 210 N. (March)

I got the last News Letter from Emmet Walsh a few days ago before I was transferred from the—airborne division... I've been doing G-3 work for some months now, but I really like it... The climate is pleasant here during the winter, although being here longer each day... I guess I will be hard for all of us to recognize the old Alma Mater when the war is over... but it will be nice to have a reunion of the World War veterans. (The place— you'll recognize it all right—when you get there, the same, the library, the dormitories—even the faculty haven't changed much.)... My regards to the faculty and all Wofford men...

Major Ernest L. Richart, '30, APO 453, S. F. (Philippines) (Mar.)

Even though it was only my M. A. that I received, I've read carefully the News Letter and always feel a real Wofford product and shall always have a very warm place in my heart for the institution. I've been here since last July and have had quite an interesting time. My experience has been quite different than that of others, but I have been fortunate enough to meet a great many Wofford men abroad. The only one whom I have talked with, so far as I know, is Major Percy Huggins, who is a Medical Officer, chief of the Outpost Clinic.

Capt. E. B. Kiefer, M. A., '29, Fort Jackson, February (February)

The Navy accepted me in the Naval V-12 program and I was sent to Duke University in July, 1943, and remained there till July, 1944... From there to Northwestern University... from there I went to California... I am now in the Navy to California, where I will await "further transportation."

Ensign Walter T. Broughton, Jr., '46, (February)

I noticed with particular interest the item concerning Major James L. Rogers in the December issue. It might interest you to know that he was my commanding officer at Officer Training School. During that time I discovered that he was a Wofford man through the News Letter, and had a pleasant talk with him one afternoon about Wofford... Also of interest was the letter from Wade Mathis... He and I were very good friends in school... I am with a General Hospital here in France... I look forward to the time when I will be able to return to the campus and continue my work...

Pfc. Grady L. Kinley, '43, APO 502, N. (January)

I left the states the latter part of September and after much traveling I arrived on my ship, it is one of the finest and of her type and I like the work very much... My journey aboard her has carried me on operations on Lusignan at Lingayen Gulf. Other spots were Leyte and New Guinea.

Lt. (jg) George W. Whitaker, '44, APO 129 N. (February)

"Colie" Brown and Capt. Wilbur Starlachs are both in the Royal Air Force, England and Scotland. It is one of the finest and of her type and I like the work very much... My journey aboard her has carried me on operations on Lusignan at Lingayen Gulf. Other spots were Leyte and New Guinea.

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Lt. (jg) George W. Whitaker, '44, APO 129 N. (February)

I have been in seven different countries and have enjoyed the historical scenes when we were all together. My stay in Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Turkey, has been very enjoyable. In the states I have received a letter from a good friend who is also a Wofford man. He is from the 11th Army Air Force. I am looking forward to a reunion on the familiar Wofford campus...

Lt. W. K. Thompson, Jr., '43, APO 143 N. (March)

I have just finished reading the March issue of the News Letter for the third time... I am sure Wofford alumni are carrying on the great spirit that has made us love Wofford, and know that we will probably be in the states in the near future... I have met only one Wofford man during the war, and that was Jack Trogdon, '45. We have many interesting talks and our thoughts always turned to Wofford and our plans for returning after the war is over...

Ensign R. H. Berry, Jr., '45, BOQUAG, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Feb.)

As my full night duty draws slowly to an end, I was sitting here thinking about Wofford, my college days, and the trips I made. I have been thinking of old friends and those memories I will never forget.

Capt. J. W. Huggins, S 1/c, '44, NCTC, Camp Endicott, N. (Feb.)

I arrived back in the States in October of last year after completing a tour in P-38's based in England. I was commissioned the highest rank of Wofford men on their long raids over Europe... I was in quite a few tight spots, but somehow they missed me each time. I was up all day, June 6, 1944, the biggest thrills was the trip to Russia on June 21. It was the first night-raid from England and fighter aircraft had never flown so long before... Russia was my last stop, but I flew more miles of missions from Italy to Romania and Hungary... Incidentally, I was a replacement in the group that had formerly been the Eagle Squadron before transferring to American Army Air Force in England. I have never seen such leaders. In two days, they had me believing that I could whip the entire Italian Air Force single handed with very few exceptions, but I had to throw it all in... On my first mission they demonstrated their ability by destroying sixteen enemy fighters, giving me a grandstand seat to watch them work... When I left the group I had scored 72 enemy planes... That's my outfit... While in England, I saw H. L. (Sonny) Belshe three times and naturally our school day escapades were the topic of conversation. Sonny is now sometimes called "Bamboozle" as he weighs only 190... I ran into Bill Brooks in London... I talked with Captain Virgil P. Foster of the plane, but we were unable to speak to him, as he was too busy with the war. My name is Major Rushton... I had a letter from Captain Edel Clark, Jr., who had just returned to the States to recover from malaria and "soldiers fever," but I was not informed of his address...

Ensign John Bell and ran into Lt. Rhett Barry while home on leave. Rhett had been wounded in France, but is recovering... While riding the train from home to Washington, I bumped into Sgt. A. C. Moore, and was very sorry to learn from Warden K. B. Stackhouse... Here's hoping that the News Letter will continue to follow me and help me meet a few friends. I'd like Robert Epp's address if possible.

Ensign R. H. Berry, Jr., '45, BOQUAG, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Feb.)

Wofford College News Letter
Hendley, '36, was there at the time with our Sixth Army. I kept hearing of other Wofford men but did not know them personally. On my return to the states I visited the hospital and saw Dr. Norton and Dr. DuPre. As was to be expected Dr. DuPre greeted me by my first name much in the manner as of yore on the campus of WOFl. In such classes. ... When this war is over let's have a big reunion of Wofford men, especially the class of '36. —

Major John Eddie Smith, '36.
Coffeyville AAF, Kansas (Mar.)

Albert Lancaster and I have gotten together out here. He's in an Army shore and boat battalion working the same beach as some of my LCT's. He's been out to dinner now and we have had quite a session of talk both times. Our biggest complaint is that we do not know the whereabouts of Peter Jack Moody. Albert is as sharp as mind as ever and all the officers on my flagship like to hear him talk.

FPO, S. F. (Feb.)

Finally got into a combat group and came over to England a little over 14 months ago. We moved to France shortly after the invasion and have moved regards to the airfields ever since — presently stationed in Germany. I can say without bragging too much that ours is the best fighter squadron in the — Air Force, or maybe in the whole theatre. ... Almost forgot to say that I was back in the States for the month of February—a 30-day leave at home after the first tour of duty—had a swell time and hated to leave again for this all over.

Major Peter R. Moody, '37.
APO 141, N. Y. (April)

When I was in England I got a chance to see my brother, Major Ben H. Brown, Jr., '35, who is in SHAPE. He, as well as my other brother, W. R. (Ranny) Brown, '37, and I are on the continent now. Ranny was wounded in November and was hospitalized until January. ... I was a liaison driver from my division to his at one time and had the chance to get to his company orderly room. I had the hard luck to find that he had been evacuated three days before I went by. ... Since I left Wofford I've lost my way in six countries: England, Scotland, France, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. ... I'm a jeep driver in the motor platoon of a heavy weapons company. I've driven all the way from Glasgow to Germany—with stops on the way of course.

APO 448, N. Y. (Feb.)

I received basic training at Cabaniss Field in October and while there was there, Lt. Albert Stanbury, USNR, was a reserve officer of the ground school at that field. Around the first of January while at the main station, I met A/C John Shevchenko, '46, who had arrived here to begin his training. I read the News Letter from cover to cover. ... We are looking forward to a great future for Wofford.

Frank J. Pegues, '45.
NATC, Corpus Christi, Texas (Mar.)

Lt. Donald Linn is another platoon leader in my company. Lts. Billy Bearden, Gene Brown and Johnny Bunch, all '44, are in another regiment. ... I was hospitalized for over a month with pneumonia. While there I learned from a member of Lt. Jimmy Wallace's outfit that he was in a nearby hospital. On my travels back to my outfit I met Pfc. Ed Spires, '45, who told me that Red Shealy, '43, was a sergeant in his battalion. Ed and I had a most enjoyable talk about Wofford and old times.

Lt. Joe S. Reid, '44.
APO 412, N. Y. (Mar.)

The "Do You Remember" column in the March Letter brought back the memories of my two years of Wofford. I'm looking forward to returning to Wofford after the war and finishing my work. I haven't forgotten Wofford man since I transferred to the Air Corps in December.

APO 412, N. Y. (Mar.)

Have just finished reading, with delight, the March News Letter. Sorry to have missed back issues but it's hard to keep the address correct and up to date while in the Navy.

For seven months I have been trying to outguess nature in the form of "Aelian Walliwaws." Surprising enough I'm still sane. This rock has a beauty all its own—rugged mountains—meandering streams—virgin snowy—no trees. There's a certain beauty in the monotonous tundra—a land of contradictions. ... One sees so many Wofford doing such a great part in this war—may it be the last one. From the list of decorations and citations it seems that many virtues of the faculty have been transferred to the sons of the alumni.

Lt. (jg) Scott Willis, '40.
Aerology NAS, U. S. Navy, 163.
FPO, S. F. (Mar.)

I received the News Letter yesterday, and believe me I really enjoyed reading about Wofford and all my classmates. ... There are several Wofford men living in my regiment. I am in—Marion Dowling, '42, Chaplain Bednour, '40, Harold Holder, '44, and Howard Bryant, '44. Whenever it's possible we get together and talk a bit.

Pfc. James H. Crouch, '44.
APO 360, N. Y. (April)

I got my copy of the News Letter tonight after it had gone to Leyte, to New Guinea, and then to this island in the Philippines, and after bouncing around to a bunch of APO's here it finally reached me at this place. ... So far here my work has been most interesting. ... Since coming over here I've met a single Wofford man, though I have met some old friends and the other day my brother-in-law came walking into my office, purely unexpected. ... We know of many Sand Gold and Bohemian have not suspended publication. I spent many happy hours on both those publications.

Capt. W. T. Lander, Jr.
APO 471, S. F. (April)

It was delightful to read through the contents of the News Letter and find the memories of my time. ... It was inducted in March, 1941, and later was fortunate in being sent to Camp Croton. I am now in France.

1st Lt. T. K. Cogswell.
APO 176, N. Y. (April)

The News Letter brings back fond memories. Even though other collegian than Wofford seem to enjoy it— I've been in service now for 18 months— I am an aerial engineer on a C-47 transport. ... Imagine my surprise this morning when I walked out to the plane to find that my Radio Operator was J. E. Painter, '40. At this moment we're both flying together somewhere over Burma—very glad to hear from Wofford and complete the studies that were so rudely interrupted by this conflict.

Cpl. Eugene Tabbot.
APO 214, N. Y. (April)