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Wofford College News Letter September 1945

Wofford College

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Dear Alumnus in Uniform:

Maybe this is no time for reminiscing, but it suddenly came to us the other day that this is the last number in the third volume of the Wofford College News Letter, and it set us to thinking. And looking back a bit. (Confidentially, if this News Letter hadn't set you to reminiscing, and looking back, and having at least faint nostalgic yearnings for another sight of the Alma Mater "on the city's northern border, reared against the sky," then a portion at least of our efforts have been wasted.)

But to look back a little. The first News Letter was sent to about two or three hundred of you. It was in October, 1942. A two-page mimeographed sheet, it was mostly about the faculty and doings on the campus. Dan Ferguson (now in the Army) helped get it out, did the mimeographing and much of the addressing of envelopes. (Later, Chas. Howard and Calvin Derrick, both now in the Army, helped with an issue or two.)

The December issue that year was combined with the Christmas bulletin, and some of you who were overseas didn't get a copy. It was in that issue that we took the notion to print the names of all of you in uniform. There was some complaint—from parents and relatives—about the omission of names, and so we decided to keep adding names in subsequent issues.

By February, 1943, there were a great many more of you in uniform. And in April the number had grown so much that the mimeographed letter was discontinued after that issue. In June, 1943, we tried a printed letter sent with a one-cent stamp. A lot of you didn't get this one, since it didn't go first class. After that, we always sent the letter first class, a somewhat expensive procedure, but well worthwhile, we hope. In October, 1944, we adopted the present format and have followed it since.

The nature of the content of the Letter has changed too. One day Dr. Snyder said to us, "Coates, that News Letter's all right, but why don't you quote from some of the letters you must be getting?" And that's how that got started.

Then one day we got a letter from Col. James P. Wharton, who is a public relations expert for the Army, in which he suggested a picture now and then. Also Capt. Herbert Hucks suggested the same thing. Also Dr. Norton. (Perhaps others as well.) And that's how the pictures got in.

Major R. E. Gregory (now in Bulgaria, or was the last time we heard), wrote from North Africa to suggest the inclusion of APO's. We wrote to the censor and he said O.K. He (the censor) also sent us a fearsome-looking set of rules, which we have tried to follow, sometimes leaning over backward. Once, though, we mentioned that Lt. so-and-so was in the Pacific, stationed aboard LCT No. 24—, or 257—, or 5,556— (we forget the number). Swish! By return mail came a letter—a very nice one—from the censor saying that we had violated regulations by printing the name of a ship! Well, one lives and learns, and if one doesn't learn he maybe doesn't live—or at least he doesn't keep on publishing a News Letter.

During the past three years we've learned a lot about you collectively as well individually. For one thing, your letters to us have been...
of tremendous aid in keeping up "morale" on this trying stretch of the Home Front. Your unflagging cheerful spirit and concern for the school and its future and for individual members of the faculty, even when you were in the midst of danger, has constantly amazed us all. And thank you for the letters, for example, the alumnus in the South Pacific who, between battles, wrote us a recommendation for a job. He had heard Wofford was always on the lookout and we were a candidate for the bread line! Wofford hasn't closed, of course, and won't.

We learned, too, that you are unusually moody about telling us of your decorations, citations, etc. We tried to tell you it was all in "the family" and that "your folks" here on the campus wanted to know about them, but still you wouldn't let us know. Well, we feel bad about this, but once again from your wives, your parents, and sweethearts—God bless them all!

As we sit here writing this there comes through our window the sound of a shifting engine bumping into a freight car down near Carlisle Hall ... Do you remember the sound? (They're talking again of building a tunnel to connect the C. & W. C. and the C. C. & O., and that would be helpful, too.)

So why do we write all this? Someone once spoke of the "mystic chord of memory" stretching from every battlefield to every home and from every battle coming back to you. It helped you keep a little to keep shining the chord of memory stretching between you and the institution which once was "in loco parentis" to you, then all of us here pleased you.

But enough of that. Let's get down to some present-day facts. We asked Dean Norton to tell you a little about the Summer School, which will close by the time you get this. Here is it:

The Wofford Summer School enrolled 300 students this summer, a record enrollment for the summer term. The majority of the students were teachers taking work to improve their rating under the new teachers' certification plan of South Carolina.

A small freshman class has been organized on the accelerated program in the first term of the Summer School. Most of the undergraduates were under eighteen years of age. The boys occupied Carlisle Hall this summer term, Snyder Hall having been turned into women's dormitory to accommodate the teachers.

A feature of the summer session was the chapel program, including Lectures, readings, and music courses of the chapel program. Two poets visited the college and read selections from their poems, Archibald Rutledge gave a very interesting lecture on Indian lore. Riley Scott, the Kentucky Welsh poet, who has long been a favorite with college audiences, spent a day on the campus.

Where We Are:

Professor Patterson, hard working as usual, rigged up an apparatus something along the lines of a gas oven and made some DDT. Gave a demonstration before the local Kiwanis club. So far as we know he's used up all the parts to make any of the stuff. Now civilians can buy the stuff at the drugstore—that is, if one is fortunate enough to find any!

Dr. Chamberlain expects to be back at Wofford this year, after having spent the past year in the U.S. Army and some DDT. Gave a demonstration before the local Kiwanis club. So far as we know he's used up all the parts to make any of the stuff. Now civilians can buy the stuff at the drugstore—that is, if one is fortunate enough to find any!

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of the men overseas. (Note to censor: Don't wait for the editor to write; send permission to "tell all" to Kenneth D. Coates, Editor the Wofford News Letter, Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C.)

For another thing, the editor would like a great many more letters—especially from those who have not previously written. Pack as much information about yourself and your friends as you can, but don't let us know that many of you haven't let us know.

Also, our Purple Heart file is very incomplete, we're afraid. We would like to hope that the few names we have on the list are complete, we're afraid.

For another thing, we'd like to know whether you have your rank. If the envelope enclosing this letter has Mr. in front of your name, we don't know your rank, let us know what it is.

Finally, won't you send us any suggestions as to what you'd like for the next issue? We'll do our best to follow your wishes.

IN DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While Fame her record keeps
And Honour points the hollow spot
Where Valor spent her spoils

2nd Lt. Lawrence J. Roberts, '45, killed in action in France on March 18, 1945.
Sgt. Everett Lee Bass, Jr., '41, killed October 1, 1943, in a plane crash over the Gulf of Mexico.
Corporal Earl Pincinck Furman, Jr., '44, died on Midem Island, New Guinea, November 7, 1944.

2nd Lt. James Madison Lee, '43, killed in action in Germany, December 14, 1944.


Capt. Gordon Seton Stevens, '39, killed in action in Belgium from the attack of 500,000 German troops on the 5th Army and 1st U. S. Army, Sept. 15, 1944.

1st Lt. William Henry Gladden, Jr., '39, killed in action October 9, 1944, near Luxerines, France.

Corporal Irwin Philip Gibbons, '41, killed November 21, 1945, from a P-302, New York, marked Deceased.

ITEMS ABOUT YOU
We acknowledge a financial contribution to the News Letter from Lt. L. SydneyConnor, '41.

Capt. Charles Allen, '41, USNR, was on leave April 28, 1945; Capt. Walter R. Johnson, '33, was at APO 627, N. Y., in May (with Chinese Army). Lt. (jg) Ted R. Wessinger, '41, is with the submarine service in the Pacific, returning to the Army after service in the Mediterranean, '43, has been in England since July, '44, AFO 427, F. S., in June, '45.


1st Lt. George W. Porter, '45, was at APO 627, N. Y., in June, '45; Maj. Louis M. Johnson, '45, has been in France since June, '45.

Maj. John T. Gilbert, '45, was at APO 627, N. Y., in June, '45; Capt. Geo. T. Davis, '45, has been in France since June, '45.

Maj. Herbert G. Myers, '45, was at APO 627, N. Y., in June, '45.

Chaplain (Capt.) Geo. C. Sweeney, '43, was at APO 235, S. F., in May, '45; Capt. Garland C. Taylor, '46, was at APO 427, Seattle, Washington, in July, '45; Capt. Marion H. Merger, '45, was at APO 74, S. F., in June, '45; Capt. Carl R. Sproles, '44, was at APO 557, N. Y., in June, '45.

Capt. R. W. Perry, '42, was at Tyndall Field in May.

Lt. Harvey Williams, '43, was at APO 583, N. Y., in June, '45; Capt. Garland C. Taylor, '46, was at APO 427, Seattle, Washington, in July, '45; Capt. Marion H. Merger, '45, was at APO 74, S. F., in June, '45; Capt. W. W. Oates, '43, was at APO 215, N. Y., in June, '45; Lt. Horace Cliff Page, '40, is at FPO, S. F., in June, '45.

Capt. Geo. T. Davis, '45, was at APO 627, N. Y., in June, '45; Col. A. J. Becker was at Camp Jackson in June, '45; Lt. Geo. E. Thompson, '45, was at Indiantown Gap AAF, in June.

Major Herbert G. Myers, '40, was at APO 343, S. F., in June, '45; Maj. Milford Smith, '45, was at APO 442, S. F., in June, '45; Maj. W. W. Crocker, '46, was at APO 707, S. F., in June, '45; Lt. W. W. McEachey, '43, was at MacDill Field, Fla., in June, '45.

Capt. (Capt.) Thurman H. Vickery, '42, was home in July, from the Pacific. He has been in the Army since June, '43, and was with combat troops all the way from Milne Bay in New Guinea to Lingayen Gulf and the Philippines. He is spending his leave with his parents, in Fort Worth, Texas, near APO 627, N. Y., in June, '45.

Sgt. Joseph H. Henry, Jr., '45, was at APO 627, N. Y., in May (with Chinese Army). Lt. Nathaniel B. Hill, '45, was at APO 627, N. Y., in June, '45; Capt. Geo. T. Davis, '45, has been in France since June, '45.
I finished interning at Roper in February, 1944, got married to a Charleston girl, and went into the army... five of who have been on German soil... As far as I know there are no Wofford men in this division. I have heard from Bob McFadyen twice, though not lately. He is still (I hope) with the -division, which has been doing some heavy fighting ever since it jumped in. I got Nick Black's address from the News Letter and I am going to write him... Hope we can all have a big '92 reunion in the not too distant future.

Lt. J. Sydney Connor, 43, FPO 493, N. Y. (July)

No matter what I'm doing, as soon as the New Letters gets into my hands, I must read the Letter from start to finish. Through the Letters I have been able to keep up with my classmates and classmates from the army since 1942. Now I find myself just as far from home as I can get. I came over this year and had the most exciting year of my life. I was lucky enough to visit Cairo and the Pyramids and the Nile Valley. ... We have had several Wofford batches in India, please send me their addresses.

T. A. James D. Greer, 43, APO 493, N. Y. (July)

The March issue of the News Letter reached me today through my classmate Karl Bowdery. After reading every word of it, I felt an intense urge to just say hello to all of you.

The first of my third year overseas and still am in the same station—SWPA. I have completed my fifth campaign—if the infantry boys will permit a member of QM corps to use the News Letter means so much to me simply because I've been very unlucky at seeing Wofford men over here—only two in more than two years. Thanks for publishing Pete Moody's "Song of Ourselves."

Lt. Col. P. G. Smith, APO 358, S. F. (April, Philippines)

I did not have much luck in running into Wofford men in the States but have seen a few over here: Raymond H. Holroyd and Robert Jeter of Union, are in the division with me. I have also seen Capt. James Switzer of Union and Lieutenants Edward
I am determined to come back to Wofford and have been saving up to that purpose. . . . I hope you will be interested in some of my experiences last week. . . . The trip on a plane, took off from New Guinea to Manila. . . . It was a good feeling to leave New Guinea. We nearly all had the Guinean blues! . . . I am looking forward to getting over the Manila area, the plane ran into a storm. . . . Everything of value (in Manila) was shot up or burned. . . .

Cpl. H. B. Koopman, Jr., APO 75, S. F. (July)

I hope my interest in and love for my old Alma Mater will not be judged too severely by my fellow alumni, who, I know, will understand that I am just sharing my experiences. . . . I have received the News Letter regularly and have followed the exploits of my former classmates and many friends with pride. Truly we are a part of the class of '44, and I am proud to be a part of the Wofford tradition.

Cpl. H. W. Koopman, Jr., APO 331, S. F. (July)

The only Wofford man I have met in my 15 months here in Italy is Lt. Col. D. A. Yongue, '41, who at present is my battalion commander. Since he is a colonel and I am only a PFC, we have had a short conversation. . . . Col. Yongue’s battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic actions against the enemy. . . . I am looking forward to getting the News Letter and news of the Alma Mater.

Cpl. H. W. Koopman, Jr., APO 331, S. F. (July)

I am getting along fine, even though I am half a world away from home. . . . I am someplace along the Lepanto-Burma road in the province of Assam. . . . This road was completed recently and I believe you me it is a miracle! To see these mountains and jungles you wouldn’t say that it was built in a day. There must be some roads that couldn’t be built through the jungle. . . . I have met one Wofford man since I came overseas 15 months ago—Timmerman, . . . used to stay at Dr. Snyder’s. If you have letters of any Wofford men in this theater please send me their APO number. (Ed. note: See other letters from Wofford men in this News Letter.) . . .

Pfc. C. E. Hammett, '45, APO 689, N. Y. (April)

I am still interested in the activities of Wofford College. . . . I am constantly reminded of the good old days on the campus. I shall never forget them. . . . It has been impossible for me to drop by Wofford in the past four years, but I trust that I will soon have that glorious experience once more. . . . It is my high ambition to return home and prepare for this entrance to Wofford in 1955. . . . I fully appreciate the influence of the great leaders of Wofford in my life.

Pfc. Rennie W. Baird, '28, APO 74, S. F. (June)