



ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
"WITH THE COLORS"



9th Co., C.O.T.S.

Camp Lee, Va.

August 4, 1918.

My dear Friends Dr. and Mrs. Shephard,  
I am no longer at Camp Dix.  
About two weeks ago an order  
came through for my transfer  
to Camp Lee. One evening the  
major announce at retreat that  
all who wished to try for Officers  
Training might make applica-  
tion. I passed my physical  
examination and went before  
a major who was picking the  
men. I passed his examination  
and now I am hard at work.  
Our colonel said we were here  
for intensive, do you get that  
word intensive, training and we  
surely are. We are constantly  
on the jump. Our hours are

TO THE WRITER: SAVE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER

TO THE FOLKS AT HOME: SAVE FOOD; BUY LIBERTY BONDS AND WAR SAVINGS STAMPS



five fifteen in the morning  
until ten at night.

We get up at five fifteen  
stand reveille at five thirty, break  
fast at five fifty and leave our  
first class at seven. We then  
attend conferences or drill  
until eleven thirty. Then we  
have dinner at twelve.

That may sound easy but  
it is not. We have ten minutes  
to dress for we must be out at  
five twenty five so that when  
assembly flows at five thirty  
we are ready to fall in at  
attention. After reveille we have  
wash and when that is done  
right over to the mess hall  
we go. From there we come  
back and clean up our squad  
rooms and make our beds. We  
generally have about ten minutes  
to ~~ourselves~~ before conference.  
This time is generally used with  
study. We have a great many  
things to do for our instructors  
infer that we may spend





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our spare moments studying signaling or something of that sort. We sometimes get a few minutes off during the day but they are few and far between. Even after supper we must go to a study hall from six thirty until 8:40. Eight forty generally finishes the day. We are so tired, however, that we only feel like retiring.

At night the boys have some fine times rehearsing the events of the day. It is almost like a twenty four hour job. During the day the conscious mind works and at night the sub-conscious. If a man happens to wake during the night he hears someone stacking arms,

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or another, instructing a platoon.  
One night I woke and I heard  
a man who was afraid the  
captain was going to take all  
his belongings from him. He  
said, "Will he take my rifle  
and barrack bag?" The empha-  
sis was just like <sup>that</sup> a greatly con-  
cerned man.

Remember me to Mr. Travis,  
and Bridget and all the others.  
Are Mrs. Herbertin and Katie  
Deniff still there?

We certainly do not eat accord-  
ing to Mrs. Bernhardt's instructions.  
The man with the boarding  
house reach wins even if many  
of the men here are college men.  
To day we had chicken, corn on  
the cob, peas, mashed potatoes,  
lemonade, cake, and ice cream.  
Who wants better? There was  
enough of it also.

Sincerely yours

Herbert E. Van Housen.



August 21, 1918.

Priv. Herbert E. Van Hoesen,  
9th Co. CoO.T.S.,  
Camp Lee, Va.

My dear Herbert:

We were very glad to hear from you and to learn that things are going so well with you. We trust you will be able to make good in your training and secure the commission you desire though I presume the competition is very keen and it will mean quite a little to be successful.

We heard from Gordon the other day. He was on a furlough in Aix'les Bains though I suppose he is back in service long since. Professor Mosher has been home to transfer from Y M C A to Military Service. He and Edith Melick were married on the 5th of August. We have been busy here during the summer with the usual repairs and improvements. We have been classifying and cataloging the library, plastered the second floor girls' hall on the East side, plastered and papered many student rooms, a new heating system in the Domestic Science building and the laundry and a new cement walk from the Seminary building to the College Hall street corner. I presume this last named will be the most appreciated of all. Certainly we have all waited patiently for it. Professor and Mrs. Rossiter have just had a new baby boy born to them. The little girl is getting to be quite active. Professor and Mrs. Terrill have been spending the summer here as well as Professor Greenwood.

While the war will seriously interfere with our boys so that we will probably not have more than half or two-thirds of our normal number, yet the registration of girls promises to be larger than any year since I have been here so that the total attendance will be something like normal. We feel very greatly encouraged for we had feared that there would be a heavy slump. Of course, as the war progresses, the regular program of army life helpful physically even though it is hard work. I trust that you are enjoying your work and also that you are like the rest of the boys in your desire to get into active service in France as soon as possible. We are glad to see the turn in the



