

April 15. 1942

Dear Dr. Post:

It's a pretty swell idea of compiling a directory of State College men who are now in the service. This type of directory would be valuable to many of us who would like to have some idea how and where our friends are. I am also sure that all of us in the service would appreciate an Aztec now and then to keep up with the news at school. I hope that you are 100% successful in compiling the directory.

As you probably know I was drafted in February and was immediately send down here to Camp Wallace. Texas. This is a Coast Artillery Training Center similar to Camp Callan. It seems foolish to send a man almost two thousand miles from his home when there is the same type of camp within a few miles of his home. Apparently the Army wants to get the men away from familar surroundings and old ties so that they may readjust themselves faster to Army life. From my experiences so fat I can say that the Army life is not bad. in fact. I rather enjoy it. The government is giving the best it can under the circumstances in the way of clothing, food, equipment and the opportunity to learn. As you probably know everyone in the Army is classified for some sort of job that the Army feels that a persen is best qualified. I have been classified as a supply slerk and am now attending a clerical school. I have one more week to complete out of a five week course. Althrough I have applied for Officer's School in the Coast Artillery I am not counting on it too much. I have a good chance of being selected, however. There is a lot to be said in favor of being an enlisted man and quite a few qualified men are content to stay privates or sergeants. In my battery there is from 50 to 60 % college men with the balance high school graduates.

I hope that everything is going well at school.

Yours sincerely.

Pvt. Noel O. Bickham Battery C, 29th C. A. T. B.

Camp Wallace, Texas