Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service
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515063
1238 Amsterdam Ave.
New York
April 17

Dearest Lottie,

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the lovely days we had with you. It was grand to be in your home; I shall sore to think of you and Bob "humpy to!" in that sweet little house; it was nice to go with you people to Margaret's and revisiting Montauk me
we had a comfortable trip back to New York. Emily stayed with me Thursday night and we met my friend for dinner as planned. Had lunch together then E. went to Phila.

Happy Easter & you! I shall be remembering you—

With much love,

Abbie
Dear thoughtfu People!

Now you can I tell you what the check you sent is for. I purchased her some books when I asked mother, she said, "You just buy something for your dad - you know that will suit me all right." When I asked father, he said "Why don't you get your mother a pretty scarf & wear around her neck?" So I think I shall just use my judgment and get something I know they'll enjoy. I'm sure did appreciate you sending the gift and the message. Many, many thanks!

Shortly before Christmas mother was taken ill with pleurisy and something which the doctors feared might develop into pneumonia. That was headed off, however. I came home a bit earlier than I had expected from New York, where I have been studying at Teachers College, Columbia, and earning my living. I shall not go back again this term. Father has rather failed after the holidays, though at times he seems quite bright and peppy, and still eager to get all over town as usual, though he is not really able to do so. Mother is better, but I'm very glad I'm at home for a few weeks - I shall try & see that she gets a good deal more rest.
The present plan of the Board is
for me to begin deputation work February 15-
the first month to be spent in the
associational meetings in Massachusetts.
After that, I don't know where I shall go.
China news is pretty disheartening these days.
Our school seems to be the only high school functioning in Swatow and our
hospital the only one that has done any great
amount of medical work there. The E. B. S.
had to move their hospital over to the
Wakchiqui side and set up in the English
chapel and in 1878, Brandeis's little old
hospital. Clara back writes:

"Can you picture the English church having
three lines of ten beds each, from the back of the
platform; and when the altar table would be a
row of medicines? It is all true."

While I was in New York I went twice
to Calvary Episcopal Church and was very glad
to hear Dr. Shuekman as he conducted the Oxford
service in Sunday nights. Have you seen
the Rising Tide, and how does it impress you?
It surely is of the type which should reach the
eyes of a great many people, but just how
deep it will go is another question.

There are many problems for me these days,
but it is truly wonderful to know with certainty
that there is no need to worry, and that strength
surely will be given to meet what comes - and
the problems will be solved too. God bless you, Althe.
Dear Mrs Hildreth,

How quickly the photo came. Thank you so much for it; we are just thrilled to have a copy. Send it a good photo too and taken 50 years ago this spring - just before I was born! which was autumn 1918.

I haven't had a chance to show it to our Chinese friends, but I will in the near day or two. You would know the Capen family. Carl Capen & his wife are with the Baptist Church in Singapore & we often see them. Beth

I saw Louise last week when I went in to the Cathedral for the United Service on the Women's World Day of Prayer.

I must try that more just now but hope to keep in touch and many many thanks for the photo & translation. With love from Beth
Mrs F. S. Hildreth
Reynolds Street
Danielson.
Conn. 06239
U. S. A.
Dear Lottie,

Does it surprise you to see that I am a soldier. Yes, I'm in the army now and have been for a week. I'm learning to be an aviator and look forward to my first 30 minutes of flying tomorrow morning.

For the past few months, I had been discontented with my job in Bridgeport. I saw that I was not in line to get as much experience as I might in another position because a change in management (of which there were many at the Remington plant) put another man in the position I was working up to. Lastly
I have been very much interested in the war and watched our entrance into it with some concern. I don’t know how much hope you get on our national affairs but President Wilson’s message to Congress made a strong enough impression on me to convince me that I should offer my services. This is the way I reasoned:— We could not avoid war with Germany and when we entered the war, we would be in honor bound to give full support in money, supplies, and men. President Wilson is nobly guiding the nation on the honorable course. It was my opinion a month ago that the war would last at
least 18 months or two years longer. To supply men, this country must raise and train a large army. In that event, all the young men of education would be needed as officers to train these men for fighting in France. Well, I just decided to get into the Officer's Reserve Corps and liked the Aviation Section the best. It took three weeks of red tape including physical & mental exams. Finally, I got impatient and went to Washington. As a result they gave me an appointment to the Aviation School here at Anacostia. Washington is a wonderful city and I had the good fortune to get into the gallery of the House of
I hear some debate on the Bond Issue Bill. It's awfully cold here and I can't think. I'm going to get warm and I'll finish this tomorrow.

Apr 30. Long Island weather is abominable. It rained most of the day and I must wait until tomorrow for my first flying lesson.

To continue the story: Mother was just fine about my enlisting. She would not say a word against what I felt was my duty. I said she guessed she could be as brave as I could.

Mastic is 25 miles out of New York, in the center of Long Island, just plain flat country.

The school is about the largest government aviation school
there being 200 soldiers, forty of them students. The requirements of the 40 are a college degree and mental and physical fitness, and so I find myself among a good bunch of College fellows—Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell. We are to receive from 3-4 months training and then commissioned as first lieutenants if we qualify. After that goodness knows what! Maybe France, maybe to train other students, maybe retirement from active duty. We have to learn Wireless, Sextant, Map sketching, flying, etc., in hopes of becoming Army aviators.
We live in barracks now but expect soon to be put in tents. There are now about 50 Curtiss airplanes here—90 H.P. motor biplanes capable of 70-120 miles an hour depending upon the winds. They are only school machines and not good enough for work on the battle front.

Oh, it's the Army life all right. Our schedule is something like this:

- **Reville - 5:15** - Setting up equipment + clean quarters.
- **Breakfast 6:00**
- **Report on field for flying 6:30**

After flying, one must work around the machines on the field until lunch at 12:00.
Infantry Drill & Lectures 1:00 - 3:00
Machine Shop work 3:10 - 8:00

Dinner at 5:00 and one is free for the day.
Lights out at 9:30 and about everyone goes to bed.

We cannot stay away over night but can get away Saturday from 12 noon - 11 P.M. a Sunday from 6 A.M. - 11 P.M. I'll go home often - I can see that now!

Denny is trying to get into the Aviation Corps but didn't start trying until I was already in so that I doubt whether we will get together.

They had a Preparedness parade a few weeks ago in D.C.
and men flow from here, dropping cards like this one I picked up on the field. I am glad to see by today's paper that the Universal training Bill passed both Senate and House without as much opposition as everyone expected. They haven't fixed the upper age limit yet but it's something like 17 to 35 years. You see if I had waited, I would have been drafted as a private probably.

How are you now? I saw a letter home telling of your plans for June. I certainly hope you are well taken care of and have expert medical attention. What sort of a fit will you be in when China declares war? The paper says it's only two weeks off now!
Can you imagine aeroplanes so stuck in the air that you don't bother to look up at them! Well that's the way here. They don't pay any attention unless something goes wrong with the engine. That is very noticeable because you can hear the engine before you can see the machine. Yesterday was bright and the sky cloudless. I watched a machine sail around overhead until it was lost straight up in the sky - but I could still hear its engine! It was, I judge, ten to fifteen thousand feet up. Much love to your Eloise and to you strength & courage at this time. Bob.
Save awhile. After a fine letter.
Did the mercury go up among the 90° yesterday and day before in Labol? It did here and I felt fine—a little reaction today, but I’ll be all right after I’ve slept some. I’m afraid you suffered more mentally than I did. Physically it wasn’t exactly comfortable but all the time I had the satisfaction of knowing my worker union...
I took the perspiration and decided to take my bed with me. I ate your crackers about 5 P.M. and was much refreshed by them. I'm sure I reached Stoneham in better condition because of them. Two of the afflicts I ate at midnight three and they, and would have slept fine after if the canine hadn't raised her voice.

Ruth's condition is troubling us all. I don't know what your brothers wrote, but I think you ought to know what Carol said to me. I said, 'I would be no hard to think of Ruth as an invalid and she said, 'I think it is worse than that,' and she said, 'I think the doctor is trying to make her questions now. He may not know any more than what he tells her and I'm inclined to think he does. The burn under her arm needs more explanation than he gives. He says adhesions cut nerves and all that and that may be reason enough for it.' I know I am pessimistic, and perhaps ought not to write this way, but I don't want you to feel that we are holding anything back.'
anything back from you, you may be sure I'll not tell any of this. From this preaching affair I find anything I may write is ruth. It just seems as tho' we couldn't have it that way. May strength be given that you and all her family may bear what perhaps may have to be borne.

I think there may really rather disappointed not to go to labor. He says he told them at the office that he was going down for the rest of the week and they all urged him to do it. If he had only told them it at, I might have been different. I'm not writing regrets, for I believe Providence...
June 26 '29

Lottie dear - a lovely morning after the sweltering day yesterday. How we missed you and the children were here to gather and eat some of these nice ripe cherries! Geo. and Bobbie are busy out there now that work left here last night. We are right on the job this
morning—tie the faithful little fellow has brought in one or two baskets full. Bobby is to free his own basket first. Your brothers is canning. Mine before she was over to look 3d. to collect rent and get the dinner for two hollow boys.

I'm all at sea about the letters I've sent. Here I told you that Lucille Benson came Sat. and remained with us till Monday morning. We were so glad to see her—and more than pleased to see how she has developed into a fine, sensible, lovable young lady. She was to see her Principal and visit her school in Essex on her way home. She says she has had more amusing offers since she signed up for the bull—the death-care. She loves
the country.
I walked to church
Sunn. and Anna Alderman Bliss brought me home. In P.D. we all went to C.H. Beach. 16
& all there - only Card and Baby stayed here to dinner. Shari & Tom Dick and...
came rather late.

Everett, Gene and their friends straggled along.
At various times 8 cats
Kimo & Bobbie O'Brien's autos bringing them.
Heaps love to all.

O.C.
Thurs. June-

Dear Lottie-

So many times these last two or three days I've said, 'good Lottie! good Lottie!' Are you quite well? It is hot even here, but at least a little breeze from some direction all the
time. I've been in my room for two days, but will get down stairs this P.M. and will be feeling fine by Saturday when Thelma comes! I'll be careful you may be sure. 'The attacks' are not nearly so hard as they used to be and don't leave me so weak. I'm still using ice bag and know it is a great help.

If only you could be here Sunday and hear Chariton preach, I think it. I will ask him, and you can imagine how pleased he will be to preach from that pulpit. Should it be too much of an effort for...
Dear [Name],

I want to thank you for my 8 Q.H. call for Rosie.*** and of her amazingly quick reply. The deal girl is house cleaning today, and will keep it up, more or less the rest of the week. Of course, she will take time for a cure every day.

Pilette's love,

A. C.
By reading Cardi's letter since your mother read it to me, I find you were to have May 3 Gall bladder yesterday. Have you heard from it yet? My pessimistic mind will suggest an operation. Perhaps it will be the blessing in disguise that will make you well.
Let us know all about it, won’t you, dearheart? We are in a flutter and knowing what
the weekend will bring us, and with the Beauskin Rock Apartment for an
overflow we’ll surely have room for all.
Polly is a peach! Carol may come down and we always look
for Easter Sunday.
All help is you see. Too much excitement for you? I fear it, but you are always keep calm, you know. Even if the rest of us are in a flurry. You would have to make up your mind to be an outdoorsman and not a desk. Good for you to do it.

I'm hungry for news from the kiddies. I know they are happy, but what do...
they carf and 2? I guess you are more hungry than I for those things. Poor little brother! II- tense such a shame that you must be separated from them so much. "Sometime all understand: they are exceptional, industrious, and they have a wonderful brother and father. Perhaps that is one reason for the separation they couldn't appreciate you if you were with them all the time - love a.e.
412 Putnam Ave  
7-6-08  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My dear Ellison,

Mr. Cohohn has just called me up on the phone. He wants to know if you will preach at Newburgh for him on the 3rd Sunday in July, the 19th. One sermon only, they holding but one service 10-30 in the morning. He says that I can read the service for you which I should consider an honor. The stiheh is
Twelve Holland ($12 75) I trust you may see your way clear to accept blam head and shoulders above the people you should not hide yourself away among the stuff and who knowest but that art come to the Kingdom for this time. Kindly let Mr. Debick and Mr. Khun as soon as Possible with love and best wishes from all. I Remain Very Truly yours Frank.
412 Putnam Ave, Brooklyn, NY
7-9-08

My dear Ellison,

yours with the favorable reply. Received this one at 8, so your letter made good time in coming. Peace telephoned me this afternoon the receipt of your letter and is glad, even as me, that you decided to come. You will come on the 12th will you not, before the 19th? Kindly let me know when to expect you.

I’ll join in sending love and trust you may have a grand good time at Laurel Park this summer. May truly yours,

[Signature]
April 5, 1928

Dear Gus,

You perhaps have met Stephen Chwang, a student from So. China whom we have been helping. Will you be good enough to read his letter which I have enclosed?

1. Will you find out whether he is gracefully asking for a larger allowance, or whether he really wants to quit in June? (i.e., Does he mean it when he says he will not continue?)

2. Also will you find out whether he has worthwhile material in him according to the opinions of the teachers.
If he is worth while (i.e., shows fair promise) will you tell him that I have at present just sixty seven dollars gold to help him, but that I will promise to get funds up to two hundred and forty dollars Mex. for his last year's expense.

(3) Please advise me whether I should make that 260 Mex. or more.

He has earned about 100 Mex. a term I understand in addition to what he gets from his studies.

(4) Does he graduate in 1927 June if he continues this course? I hope that he can graduate.
Dear Lotte,

For lack of pretty Christmas cards or paper, I'll resort to this to send you my good wishes for the gladdest time of the year.

In these latter days of no more Reference Committee or Conference, an occasion committee of the whole with an Executive Committee of three, times have changed and the Chinese are developing along many lines. Of course we have not all perfect Christians or perfect leaders as you have in America (!!) but we thank God for
some very fine ones.

The Condemazar High School has about sixty girl students out of 347 students in all and from the Bible Woman at the Hospital prays their pen minds to things spiritual. In the summer, graduates were baptized at Katyang the Ohio day as well as about a dozen of their own students.

I hope that you are growing stronger and that the New Year will hold rich blessings in store for you all. I certainly miss your lovingly yours,

Hermitta
My dear letter,

It seems that every letter I write begins with how much I want to say to you and how I can scarcely wait for my visit with you. I can't help you much with your decision for to me it is one of the greatest questions!! I do not believe you are a "meakling" because it is not easy to decide. I feel that you will be a better worker for the care and thought you give your decision. I suppose it involves the question of what you both owe your families and how far you ought to obey their desires. The last is a question I have run into frequently in my life, to hard to go contrary to the desires of our mother but each of us have our own lives to lead. So many of my friends are doing things that make the world better. I do admire it so. Oh! Sin so useless— you can't imagine how shiftless Sin grows. The only work I have left is...
would sacrifice greatly for it in some sort of settlement work (plain writing) and that idea Sir had to give up. Few tho' I seem careless and light I do sometimes think. Three years ago this week the man I had always expected to marry died. In a long line the sharpest grief is gone, but nothing can come to fill the place he left. Work might have; but health has faded. In all have our problems. Yours at present a great one, but I am sure you will be guided by all this one. Don't worry. I am more than glad the concert was a success. As the fund is "young" so to speak, I hope to contribute again. I am surprised at Mrs. Hewett's strength she must be a wonderful woman. I got the "idea" you spoke of from the clipping.

I expect to leave for college about the second of June. Will you be there for
The mountain or the shore? I have had two Round Rallies the last week. It is very interesting to hear from so many of the girls. And quite an easy way of keeping track of them. In one there was a discussion of reaching. It fills a big place; I can only remember getting interested over two people—you and Margaret Thompson whom I never write to. I wonder if you and I would have continued being friends without your bond. Of course, now we would; but I'm glad in the early days I would have had to hang onto you quite hard—you should have snatched me!!

There used to be one or three of my friends ill, and aside from my visits to them, a little sewing occupies most of my time. I seldom escape up energy enough to get any place. I'm thankful it will not last.
Remember you and Elian have to make your own decision. Please help you with it! Always.

Sincerely your friend,

Lucy.
Chaochowfu, via Swatow, China,
March 29, 1916.

Dear Cousin Mabel;

You may be interested in a little account of what happened the 46 other day over in the city, across the river from here. You have read in the papers about the revolution in southwestern China, and so have we. All the people around here are in sympathy with it, but the government has kept so many soldiers here, and taken such precautions to keep the people from getting hold of guns, that no one could do anything.

Recently, however, they have been sending a lot of soldiers elsewhere, so that there are only a few located at Chaochowfu; the searching of all baggage for guns at the city gates has been relaxed and practically given up. The authorities are apparently off their guard. The opportunity seemed good, and Monday morning a lot of revolutionary soldiers from Swatow came by on the early train, marched in and took possession of the magistrate, and forced him to declare Chaochowfu independent of Juan Shin Khi. These men had been imperial soldiers in good and regular standing, until they took this step. According to the story of the postmaster, who is intelligent, and whose office is close to where it all happened, the total casualty list consisted of one man killed and one wounded on the wrist. That's almost like a Central American revolution, isn't it?

I understand that at the same time soldiers went to Chaoyang, Kityang, and Shanghai, and did the same thing. These are all important official centers. We have missionaries at Chaoyang and Kityang, but they, like us, are outside the city wall, and whatever fighting there is (probably not much) is all inside the city, so we are not worrying about them.

I understand that Swatow, the port, is still faithful (nominal) to Juan Shin Khi. The trains from here to Swatow have stopped running, and so have the steam launches from Chaoyang and Kityang to Swatow, so that we interior missionaries are cut off from the port; also we have no mail service. I hope it isn't bothering the others any more than it is us.

I have been so busy lately that my correspondence has been badly neglected. This week was to have been fuller than ever, with a Sunday School Conference and several other things; of course these are all postponed. My teacher lives inside the city wall; the gates are shut most of the time; when they are shut he can't get out; when they are open he doesn't dare to, for fear he will be shut out, so he doesn't come to teach me at all. Doesn't that give me the finest chance to write letters? And I'm making the most of it.
Swatow, China, February 22, 1914

Dear Raymond;

Perhaps you would be interested to know how Lottie and I spend a typical day. The alarm clock goes off at 6:45 and I dash madly over to the bureau to choke it off before I get too lazy to get up. Then we follow Mueller's system of exercise which calls for both exercise and a bath every morning. This takes a little too much time, so we divide it up. I take the exercise and Lottie takes the bath. We get to breakfast somewhere in the neighborhood of 7:30 and our class begins at 8:30 so we don't have very much extra time in the morning. Class lasts till 11:30 and then Lottie rushes off to teach English to a class of girls till dinner time, at about 12:30, while I stay at home and try to get my affairs a little straightened out. Afternoon class is at 2:00, so after dinner there is somewhat over half an hour that everybody says ought to be given to a nap, but nobody that I know succeeds in spending it that way; we certainly don't. To-day, I have got to use it to go down to the post office with this; ordinarily I would send the servant, but I have got to do some business that I can't do thro him. Class lasts till 4:00, and then we have afternoon tea, which sounds luxurious, but is really necessary. After that we go out and play tennis for an hour or so, if we have a chance, and we very seldom fail to get a chance unless it is raining. Tennis is about the only exercise available and in this unfriendly climate exercise is more of a necessity than it is at home. By the time we have got dressed up after tennis it is supper time, and the afternoon tea looks a long time. Really if we didn't have it, it would be too much of a drain to put tennis on the end of a long day. The evening is all too short, and then it is bed time.
Sunday is different. Instead of class at 8.30 we go to the chapel at 9.00, where there is a prayer meeting, followed so closely that the break is imperceptible by a preaching service, the whole lasting till about 10.30. All in Chinese, of course. I read the hymns, and sing the words that I know. If I am lucky I sit by a missionary and when the Scripture is read I follow it as best I can looking at the words that I know and trying to guess what the rest are deriving at. During the preaching I sit with my notebook and try to catch the various phrases. Those are easier to catch in the prayers, but unfortunately I never can remember them till the close of the prayer. After the sermon I get one of the missionaries to tell me the meaning of the phrases that I got, that is provided I got them straight; some have to be discarded as meaningless in the form which I caught. It is then approaching 11.15 at which time I start for the village, in which the English Presbyterian Mission across the bay maintains preaching in English every Sunday morning, assisted occasionally by our missionaries. When I get home it is close to dinner time, say one o'clock. After dinner there is something like half an hour before starting for Sunday School at 2.30, which keeps me till about 3.45, and then I go home and after tea go off for a walk with any of the missionaries that we can get ambitious enough, lasting till supper time. You will notice that on weekdays I say "we do", on Sundays "I do". That is because Lottie doesn't do all of that. She always goes to at least one of the services, usually two, but seldom more, while I almost always go to all. I enjoy the preaching in English, and would get pretty homesick for it if I didn't go; and I enjoy meeting the Chinese, what little I can talk with them, and enjoy trying to catch the language, even if it is pretty strenuous mental exercise for Sunday.

Saturday, is nominally a free day. Practically it is so taken up with jobs around the house, etc, that it is as full as any other day.
Swatow, China, February 22, 1914

Dear Raymond,

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