BUTLER COLLEGE IN THE WORLD WAR

CHAPTER I

Butler College in Wartime

The Civil War

Butler College was cradled in struggle. Her founders were of those who had hewn their State out of Indian territory; had created farm-lands out of dense forests, towns out of regions unknown to the white man; had fought malaria, loneliness, poverty. The Puritan ideals of faith in God, faith in man, faith in work, had inspired these pioneers of the new West to build broadly for the powers which educate. Intelligence they knew to be a moral obligation in the developing and strengthening of the young Democracy. With a public school system established by Caleb Mills, Calvin Fletcher, Henry P. Coburn, in the small growing capital of Indiana, the insistent need of a higher school of learning for the vicinity and the farther northwest so impressed the mind of Ovid Butler and his co-workers, men of vision and of courage, that eventually there appeared in visible form, beautifully seated upon wooded land in northern Indianapolis, the Gothic structure known as the Northwestern Christian University.

The university opened its doors in 1855 to all students of whatever race, sex, locality, desirous of a
college education—a broad conception based upon the lines of freedom and justice. This institution, the second of its standing to admit the negro, the second to have a woman upon its faculty, among the first to admit women upon equal standing with men, the first to graduate a woman from its classical course, was established with no slight struggle. But the college soon assumed fair proportions despite physical limitation and nurture in the years of brewing war. Chartered upon the principle that all men are born free and equal, she entered at an early age into the conflict for human freedom. Her founders, who as pioneers had fought the wildness of the West, had also, as sons of Revolutionary heroes, fought in their untried undertaking for justice and for liberty. Their spirit permeated the work of their hands and their heart and natural it was when in 1861 the call for volunteers went forth that the students of the University, sons of struggle and trained in the elemental belief of individual freedom, should with the buoyancy of eager youth answer the grim call.

During the years of the Civil War there went from the school mature men and mere boys—in all, one hundred and eighty-four students of whom record is in college possession. On the march and the bivouac and the battlefield, these untrained manly youths did their full part. They knew the awfulness of fighting. Their costly blood sprinkled the soil of Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky. At Shiloh or the Wilderness, Vicksburg or the Atlanta Campaign, some fell. Others died in camp or after reaching home unable to withstand the effects of cruel war.

A bronze tablet in the college chapel memorializes the names of these immortal youths who laid down their lives to preserve the Union.
IN THE WORLD WAR

1861 Sacred to the Memory 1865 of Patriot sons of Alma Mater

They died for cause aligned to God's enduring purpose who half-hundred years ago gave up sweet life to save our country from disunion; for by their blood America was ransomed—ransomed and reunited and stronger made to stay mad ruin's rush that, but for them, in day that was to come, had overwhelmed the world.

Of these our brothers were, whose names we here enshrine, acclaiming now the virtue of their lives, the valor of their deeds, the sacrificial death they died—the while, Oh Heart Compassionate, Thou shalt with us deplore the stern decree that banished them from world of ours ere they had lived to see, as we today, the greater glory of the land they loved—and which they died defending:

Thurston C. Challen John L. Doyal
George B. Covington Joseph R. T. Gordon
Marion Elstun Perry Hall
George J. Frenyear Rufus Harper
Squire Isham Keith Marshall P. Hayden
James L. Neff Platt J. Squire
Albert J. Danforth, Jr. Jesse W. Tilford
Samuel A. Dunbar George P. Vance
Addison M. Dunn Jacob Varner

In flush of youth and pride of early manhood died they. Peace to their ashes. And may this record enduringly remain to here
attest the virtue of true manhood, the nobleness of patriotic devotion.
—Butler Alumni Association, 1921

Struggle was thus in the air and the spirit to throttle wrong in the very life-blood of the student body. Wisdom was justified of her children.

The Spanish-American War

The second call to arms came in 1898, and again Butler College was not lacking in the spirit of personal responsibility and of patriotic sacrifice. Of the early Indiana Volunteers, the Twenty-Seventh Battery of Light Artillery was commanded by Captain James B. Curtis, '80, in which were enlisted other Butler men. This battery—organized August 8, 1882, designated as Battery A, First Artillery, Indiana National Guard, out of which was formed the famous One Hundred and Fiftieth Field Artillery, Forty-Second division, of the World War—was the only organization of Indiana Volunteers sent during the war to the enemy’s country. It landed in Porto Rico, had reached the firing-line, was ready for action, when the word of Spain’s overtures of peace to the United States Government arrived and hostilities ceased. The Twenty-seventh Battery, enrolled April 26, 1898, returned to Indianapolis the early part of autumn, September 25th, and after a two month’s furlough, was mustered out November 25, 1898. Despite the ravages of fever and the evils of unpreparedness, no Butler man lost his life.

The brevity of the combat, its distant field of action and easy victory made a war less spectacular and less tragic than the war of the 60’s; but the cause of hu-
manity and of national honor did not fail of appeal to the responsive academic youth of the country.

The World War

When the story of the part America played in the Great War shall have been written, glorious will be the chapter upon the participation of the colleges. It may be that the youth of every land in the days of Arms and the Man sees visions and holds true to ideals. It is difficult, however, to believe there is any manhood like our own, and we can not but think that the gallantry we have known and loved is an American gallantry peculiar to the lads of our free race. If the spirit of Chivalry had ever seemingly disappeared from the boys of recent decades, it was a misreading of student nature. When in the Spring of 1917 the trumpets blew and the horizon broadened, the great ages were reborn before our eyes; and no Raleigh or Sidney or Gilbert ever went to death with a lordlier heart than those young men upon whom the end of the world was to come. The Butler boys, like St. George, that great knight of God who rode out in the olden time to kill the dragon which had been devouring women and little children, sprang to the defense of what is just and true and holy. And no finer thing can be said of men than that they defended justice and truth and righteousness.

In 1917 Butler College is again engaged in a contest for human liberty and life. She has never been belligerent, but she has never hesitated to fight for right. In a third time so eagerly answering the call to arms, she simply incarnated the virtue and the hope of her founders.

In the Spring of that fateful year she seemed little
different from that she had been in other decades: the aspect of the old buildings, of the scattered playfields, of the loved trees, was unaltered from preceding years. Material environment was placidly holding its own. Yet there was a change upon the campus, a real change which comes but seldom and then only because of a disturbance in the hearts of men. One felt it in the air, or caught its echoes even before he had reached the campus. A new force, spiritual yet dynamic, was making cheeks glow and pulses beat more rapidly. With the zeal which animates human nature in struggling for a righteous cause, the students were preparing themselves for the mightiest conflict of time. The fate of our country—the fate of the world—was to rest on just such boys as these.

A study of school psychology from August 1914 to April 1917 shows a steady growth of mental and spiritual preparation for great events to come. Interest was manifested in what was happening far away as interest is manifested in the happenings of the distant past. The first fighting on the Marne, on the Somme, about Verdun, was thrilling, but it in no wise touched the life of Butler College. Classroom work progressed with little change. Academic activities were undisturbed. Public sentiment was divided. On the faculty had been friendly German professors, while others had studied in that land of culture; in the student body were many of Teuton birth or descent whose love for fatherland resented the press reports. In accordance with the terms of President Wilson’s proclamation of August 18, 1914, a seeming neutrality in all gatherings of work and play was for a while preserved. But Prussian atrocities, Belgian agonies, and French sacrifices were increasing influences on the college thought and sympathy in favor of France and the Allied cause.
When, on May 7, 1915, the torpedoed "Lusitania" carried to their death one hundred fourteen American men, women and children, the country knew there was no further honorable withholding from war. Butler boys knew it. The agitation for preparedness began. There had previously been no military training on the campus. Through athletic sports the boys had learned the martial virtues of courage, patience, obedience, endurance. Now as to compulsory military training mixed feeling existed among the faculty, the students and their parents. Open and sharp argument found expression in gatherings, in the halls, and through the college press, as to whether required training was following in the steps of militaristic Germany and a trend backward; or whether there was a wise preparedness demanded by the time. The Butler Collegian of February 14, declared: "Preparedness is the keynote of the nation. Every loyal American is ready for his country's call. We Butler students can best demonstrate our patriotism by preparing ourselves for any eventuality."

A Freshman wrote*: "It is contended that universal training is undemocratic. It is not. Under a voluntary system do you think it democratic when an enthusiastic bricklayer trains while an effete butterfly dances? Should a struggling student learn military tactics while a corpulent capitalist practices monetary tactics? No. Universal training is essentially and absolutely democratic. It includes rich and poor, high and low. Switzerland, probably the most democratic nation in the world, has had universal training for years, and, as a result, can turn out as high a percent-

*Kenneth V. Elliott, '21, who sealed his words with his blood at Chateau-Thierry.
age of trained men as tyrannized and militaristic Germany. Australia, undoubtedly the most democratic commonwealth of any kingdom, has adopted in a modified form the Swiss system of universal training, which is neither inconvenient nor oppressive.

Therefore, let us support this resolution as a unit . . . . . Let the esprit de corps of Butler be liberty, loyalty, love of country.'

On March 3, at a meeting of the men of the college, a declaration in favor of temporary compulsory universal military training was carried by a large majority. When on April 1 a squad of seventy men began to drill on Irwin Field under Captain Hurt at 6:30 a.m. and at 3:30 p.m., Butler was in the movement pioneer among Indiana colleges.

To the declaration of war upon April 6, 1917, the youth of the land unhesitatingly responded. No conscription law was needed to bring college men into battle. They had thought, they had talked, they had measured the cost. They had flung away their idols and had met God. Their willingness to accept duty and to sacrifice themselves seemed part of some high secret religion of their own. These boys had nothing to gain from the war, except their own souls. They had every thing to live for.

With the opening of the first Officers' Training Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, on May 15, the college halls were almost depleted of upper classmen. Proudly, Butler bade Godspeed to her manly sons. The seriousness of the situation had not forced itself upon the minds of even the older people of the college. Modern warfare was too terrible to be long-continued; the fighting was still three thousand miles away. Fort Benjamin Harrison was not far-distant; the boys were
scarcely out of sight, and, khaki-clad, with soldierly bearing, a fine light in their eyes, brought assurance and aroused pride as they weekly returned to their Indianapolis homes. A visit to the camp was thrilling and inspiring. One came away with a clearer, broader idea of what the nation was doing in its effort to defend the principles upon which it was founded. The drill of thousands of sturdy, trained, bronzed, young men swinging past the reviewing officer, the breaking up into groups to meet friends, or the gathering with families for a picnic supper, or the promenading the parade ground in snatched moments with those in bright array, made a scene to linger in memory. The experience was new and exhilarating. The fineness of war spirit was there without its rigor and its danger.

After twelve weeks of training in which raw recruits had been shaped into impressive disciplined units of khaki-clad soldiers, healthy, vigorous, intelligent, filled with enthusiasm, ready to make for the flag the ultimate sacrifice, if necessary, the first camp broke up, and the boys, now chiefly second lieutenants, were scattered throughout the land for further training and more earnest service. The aspect grew more serious as in the departure for distant camps they set out for the great unknown of war.

Had there been one unit composed of Butler men, there would be small difficulty in following their progress either abroad or at home; but, trained in many camps, assigned to various divisions, ordered for service to separate regions, it would be tracing the action of several hundred individuals were the effort made. However, a classification, though imperfect, is attempted.
In June, 1917, began the great movement of transporting the American troops to France. Butler men were in the divisions earliest to cross and among those first to undergo training in the Gondrecourt Area, the Baccarat Sector, the Toul Sector, the Saumur Artillery School, and were a part of that huge educational system whereby newly-arrived divisions might receive instruction in the latest developments of the art of war and thus be transformed into combat divisions worthy to stand beside the best of the Allied Forces. They were put to the severest physical, mental, moral tests of what the intense training had done for them. They endured the practice for open warfare in the sleet and rainstorms of that excessively cold winter in the frozen hills of Lorraine. They of the Forty-second division will never forget the memorable Christmas Day on which they were ordered southward to Langres. Despite blizzard and ice-covered roads, lightly clad and so poorly shod as to leave many a time bloody trails on the snow, their three days’ march continued. Then they showed that indomitable spirit which marked the Rainbow throughout its entire course. They endured the grim months of maneuvers and trench warfare, the weary waiting for active service when they might show to the world that American troops had at last entered on the real mission of hurling back the Germans. They did their duty, and wherever placed they met the enemy with dauntless courage—those boys who were a part of the greatest army the world has seen and who “marched breast forward * * * * never doubted clouds would break.”

From the opening of the Spring drive on March 21,
1918, Butler men were a part of every major military operation which followed until the foe sued for armistice. They fought at the fall of Bapaume and Peronne on March 24, at the taking of Armentieres on April 11, and in the bloody battle for Amiens on April 24. They were of the First division when she showed to the world of what mettle the American army was made in attacking and in holding Cantigny on May 28. They were with the First, Second and Forty-second divisions (divisions which a German captured report declared to be the three "First Class attacking Divisions of the American Army") and knew the fury of the fighting until the Armistice was signed.

The fighting in the Marne Salient for seventy-two days (May 27 to August 6) was divided into four separate and distinct battles, in all of which Butler men participated. They were in the Second and Third divisions in the Aisne Offensive, the first phase of the German drive toward Paris, in which, on June 1, they reached the Marne near Chateau-Thierry. They were with the First and Second divisions in the Montdidier-Noyon Defensive, June 9-15, and in the Sixth Marine regiment in its brilliant operation of driving the enemy from Belleau Wood, taking Bouresches and Vaux. They were with the Third and the Forty-second divisions in the Champagne-Marne Defensive, July 15-18, and effective in helping to stop the German drive toward Paris. They were in the Aisne-Marne Offensive, July 18 to August 6, in which the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Forty-second took part in driving the enemy back from the Marne. They were of those who, on the night of July 19, cleared the Marne forever of German troops and were with the Fourth, Twenty-sixth, Thirty-second and Forty-second divisions in
pursuit from the Marne to the Vesle rivers. They were present at, and a part of, the wonderful feat when, as Hertling, the German Chancellor, said upon his deathbed, "the history of the world was played out in those days.'"

They were of those of whom, in the General Order, published on August 27, to the American Expeditionary Forces, General Pershing says, in part:

"You came to the battlefield at a crucial hour for the Allied cause. For almost four years the most formidable army the world has yet seen had pressed its invasion of France and stood threatening its capital. At no time has that army been more powerful and menacing than when, on July 15th, it struck again to destroy in one great battle the brave men opposed to it and to enforce its brutal will upon the world and civilization.

"Three days later, in conjunction with our Allies, you counter-attacked. The Allied armies gained a brilliant victory that marks the turning point of the war. You did more than to give the Allies the support to which, as a nation, our faith was pledged. You proved that our altruism, our pacific spirit, and our sense of justice have not blunted our virility or our courage.

"You have shown that American initiative and energy are as fit for the tasks of war as for the pursuits of peace. You have justly won unstinted praise from our Allies and the eternal gratitude of our countrymen.

"We have paid for our success with the lives of many of our brave comrades. We shall cherish their memory always and claim for our history and literature their bravery, achievement and sacrifice.

Pershing."
In these costly weeks Butler men were killed in action or received wounds to their lasting hurt. Of those who fell on the field of honor were Lieutenant Robert Edward Kennington, Corporal Marsh Whitney Nottingham, Lieutenant Kenneth Victor Elliott.

In July, additional divisions arrived from the United States, among them bringing Butler men were the Ninetieth, which went into line August 24, and did its first major fighting at Saint Mihiel; and the Ninety-first, which was assembled in the Eighth Training Area until September 6, when it moved up to constitute part of the reserves for the Saint Mihiel attack. The Eighty-fourth division arrived in France late in September, was designated as depot division and ordered to Le Mans where its units were broken up and sent to the front as replacement for combat divisions. The Thirty-eighth division arrived in October, was also ordered to Le Mans where its personnel too was broken into replacement units for combat divisions. These divisions were thus enabled to be replaced immediately to full strength and to be sent back for the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

During the remaining intense weeks of the war Butler men played a superb part in the operations of the First American army. In the advance on Saint Mihiel, in the air battles, in the three phases of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, our boys were in divisions on the forefront: the First, Second, Third, Sixth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-seventh, Forty-first, Forty-second, Ninetieth and Ninety-first. They were an integral part of that tremendous army of three-fourths of a million men which, under General Pershing, held seventy-two miles of front and for forty-two days pushed forward in indescribable
dash and vigor over sea of mud, shell holes, shattered wire, ruined trenches, up to the very gates of Sedan, encountering all the while frightful storms of metal. Across No Man's Land they were of those who advanced in waves of infantry, in wallowing tanks, in driving artillery, under bursting machine gun fire; they were with the engineers working with mad haste to prepare a way for carrying ammunition, food, water, supplies, for ambulances and trucks to bear the wounded who had fallen as autumn leaves, until the German strength finally crumbled under the power of the last blow in the Argonne forest and the German Government signed an Armistice on November 11, 1918. The casualties were very great. Butler College was not spared.

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France could ill spare a regiment during the final blows upon her front; but the appeal of Italy for American reinforcement to stimulate her morale and achievement was so insistent that General Foch dispatched to the Italian fighting sector the Three Hundred Thirty-second United States Infantry, commanded by Colonel William Wallace*. This well-trained gallant regiment was received with great honor. It paraded through several cities making a fine impression; its flag aroused confidence and hope. The king and the general staff reviewed it upon an historic plain. Its guard of honor was composed of battalions of Italy's picked veterans. It was assigned to the Tenth army of Italy under the British command of General Cavan, and held an advance guard position in

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*Colonel Wallace, a grandson of Mr. Ovid Butler, founder of Butler College, was a student of Butler College in the years 1885-1887, leaving to accept an appointment to West Point.
the bitter fighting when the Italian offensive began, on October 26, on the Piave front. It was in the desperate final struggle of Italy with her age-long enemy, when victory crowned her heroic efforts and the Austrian armies, shattered and destroyed, were driven from all that bore the name of Italy.

The Three Hundred Thirty-second regiment was thanked by the king of Italy for its service and a gold medal bestowed upon it by the city of Genoa. The Italian citizens of New York presented Colonel Wallace, for the regiment, upon his return to the United States, in April, 1919, a gold medal on which was inscribed "The Italians of New York to the glorious Three Hundred Thirty-second Infantry regiment in commemoration of the battles fought in Italy in 1918, for noble ideals and for democracy."

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The story of the men in fighting action does not complete the narrative of the part Butler College took in the American Expeditionary Forces. There were those who knew the disappointment of not getting into action though in France, whose divisions had arrived too late to be used in replacements. In the Motor Transport Corps, the Signal Corps, the Air Service, the Chemical Warfare Service, the services of supply in all its departments: the Quartermaster Corps, Medical Department, Engineer Corps, Ordnance Department, Red Cross, Young Men's Christian Association, were our college men who performed their offices with as great show of bravery, oftentimes, as the men on the front. The administration of these departments with their intricate ramifications and enormous problems and responsibilities demanded executive ability of highest order. Their performance of duty deserves great praise.
War did not end with the signing of the Armistice, nor was rest for the weary veterans yet in sight. On November 14, the Army of Occupation was formed of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Forty-second, Eighty-ninth, and Ninetieth divisions, and for over a month was following the defeated Germans out of France, across the Rhine, and finally into Germany where at Coblenz was established its headquarters. Here for several months it kept watch on the Rhine.

**Service at Home**

About forty per cent. of the Butler College enlisted were sent overseas. From the Officers’ Training camps others had, in the main, gone out to the scattered camps of the country and had rendered efficient devoted service in the cantonments, the aviation fields and the naval stations.

They were as well trained and as worthy as those selected for the American Expeditionary Forces, but choice willed it otherwise. “Their not to make reply.” If the bearing of disappointment be test of strength of character, then these men are of our heroes. They were discharged from service the early part of 1919. They had done their full duty in winning the war.

The Casualty list at home was greater than that suffered abroad. In various camps had died, chiefly of pneumonia, Sergeant Conwell Burnside Carson, Lieutenant John Charles Good, Sergeant Henry Reinhold Leukhardt, Corporal Guy Griffith Michael, Private Wilson Russell Mercer, Private Marvin Francis Race, Lieutenant Bruce Pettibone Robison, Apprentice-Seaman Henry Clarence Toon. As direct effect of the war have died later, Lieutenant Carl Christian Amelung, Corporal Dean Weston Fuller.
As the tenseness of 1918 had increased, the Government, realizing the seeming length of the struggle, issued orders for the establishment in five hundred and sixteen colleges of a Student Army Training Corps. Butler College was one of the institutions chosen in which to accomplish the two-fold object of the Secretary of War: "First, to develop as a great military asset the large body of young men in the colleges; and second, to prevent unnecessary and wasteful depletion of the colleges through indiscriminate volunteering by offering to the students a definite and immediate military status."

On October 1, 1918, the most of the two hundred and sixty-four boys who formed the unit were inducted into Federal service. It was an impressive scene, that of those youths pledging "allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands: one Nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." Judge James A. Collins administered the oath of allegiance and Mr. Hilton U. Brown thus greeted the new soldiers:

"Gentlemen, I am here in behalf of the directors of Butler College to bid you welcome, and to extend the same hand of power, because it has love back of it, which has already been extended by this institution in two other wars. Only a half-century ago nearly every man in the college was called to the front. Many of them never returned. Some returned, and some even are here, honored members of the Board of Directors today. Later, others went into the Spanish-American War. Last year more than two hundred students of this institution enlisted for this great war; and now you are come. Already three hundred of you are enlisted in this corps, and more are following. Three hundred men at Sparta held the pass against the enemy. Three hundred men such as you can work such wonders
as my feeble tongue can not describe. The Government has seen fit to appeal to the colleges to give their great service in this immortal period—the world's crisis. There is not the slightest lingering doubt in the minds of any of you, nor of us, nor of these friends who are here, that you will render the kind of service that the United States expects you to render, and which those who are 'over there' and whose reverberating guns you can almost hear this moment, have rendered. Already at least five of those who went out from these halls last year have paid the full tribute of their patriotism and scores of others are in hospitals and we know not where; but we know that their service is one hundred per cent., as yours will be.

We congratulate you. Yours is the opportunity of all times; and we not only congratulate you, but in behalf of this institution we pledge to this Government all its resources; and we back that with its history and its honored traditions. We bid you Godspeed.’’

The erection north of Irwin Field of two barracks, a bath house, a mess hall, a canteen, seemed to convert over night the campus into a military post. The influx of the sudden appearance of two hundred sixty-four soldier-students filled the college to its capacity accommodation. The curriculum must be enlarged to offer courses necessary for those in military training, while the regular student body must not suffer loss with the innovation. The professors in true patriotic spirit met the demand of the occasion. The women of the faculty and of Irvington were energetic in giving time and strength to the need of the boys in their midst as well as of those far away. An improvised hospital was furnished and regulated by Butler alumnae, and professionally attended by a Butler alumnus. Influenza
scourged the Corps and the hospital was kept well filled. On December 12, Wilson Russell Mercer, of Anderson, Indiana, died. These were days when 'hearts beat hard,' days of genuine living.

The Armistice put an end to all need of a Students' Army Training Corps. Scarcely had the camp been planted when

"It folded its tent like the Arab,
And silently stole away."

Its realization soon became hazy.

The college continued its work through the months of 1917 and 1918 as best it could, its attendance made up almost entirely of women and under-classmen. Great messages were brought, strengthening the fortitude by opening the vision to new values, by Dean Stanley Coulter of Purdue University and Dr. William Douglas McKenzie of Hartford Theological Seminary, by speakers less widely known, and by prayers unrecorded. Stirred by the energy and passion of war, men spoke with solemn sincerity. Into the stuff of their thought and utterance, whether in active service or not, they poured forth convictions and ideals so forceful in character and so beautiful in form as to linger in permanent memory.

Common thought, common activity, common experience, brought into close relationship all forces of the college. A spirit of devotion to duty, of sympathy in suffering, were great educative powers, and probably not since the Civil War had there been teaching of so elevated a character as during those months. The work of the alumni stands out with no less credit to the Alma Mater. To enumerate the activities would be to name the alumni list entire. A little more slowly,
perhaps, did the men of another generation follow the eager boys, men who had acquired family ties and business responsibilities. It was a struggle for them to leave their offices and homes, but ultimately a large number went out to do their part in saving civilization. Untaught in war, they found themselves in a changed environment, but they did not fail to quit themselves like men. Often their experience in industry placed them at "desk jobs," without much romance or activity, but they had their share—a large share—in the consummation of victory. Whether it was with the draft board, or the Council of Defense, talking with the "four minute" men, working in scientific laboratories, assisting with many drives, contributing of time and means, and in numberless ways supplying moral strength to the fighting boys, the patriotic Butler alumni did honorable civilian service.

The work of the women, if less romantic, was none the less earnest and devoted to a high cause than that of their brothers upon the field. Red Cross classes were organized in the college even before the United States had entered the war. Knitting, sewing, war gardening, entertaining the soldiers quartered at Fort Benjamin Harrison, canteen work, the selling and the buying of Liberty bonds, were activities carried on by the young women to their fullest extent. For the Christmas of 1917, every Butler student in service was remembered by the Young Women's Christian Association. Fraternities bought bonds and adopted French or Belgian orphans. The college gave generously for the relief of American students in German prisons. In the Young Men's Christian Association drive of 1918 the quota assigned Butler College was two thousand dollars. She went over the top in meeting the assignment.
To the call sent out by the Association of American Colleges to grant scholarships to two young women of France for the collegiate year of 1918-1919, Butler College answered promptly. These scholarships were the gifts of an alumnus and a friend of the institution. For the second time these scholarships were renewed annually for different candidates. It proved profitable for the French young women to have opportunity to know the spirit of American education and life; profitable for the students of the college to have opportunity of receiving at first hand interpretation of the soul of la douce France.

The work of Butler women was beyond all praise. Every energy was put forward in the aroused, amazed, agonizing world. One went overseas with the American Expeditionary Forces; another did reconstruction work in France; some nursed in camps; while still others too numerous to mention did war work in the various cities of homeland.

And who gave more for country and for God than the Butler College mothers—mothers who sent forth to war one son—two sons—three sons?

The Homecoming

Now and then throughout the late summer and autumn of 1918 individual officers—birds of passage—had been sent back on missions, chiefly that of instruction; but not until January, 1919, did a division return. On a clear cold mid-winter day thousands of admiring, grateful Hoosiers lined the streets of the business district of Indianapolis to greet the first Indiana units to return—the One Hundred Thirty-seventh and One Hundred and Thirty-ninth regiments of the Cyclone
division. Cheers and tears mingled in welcoming the two thousand seven hundred and eighty gallant sons, stalwart, erect, firm-stepping they passed with full evidence that they had maintained the State's patriotic tradition for fighting men. They had come from all walks of life and in short space of time had been welded into a finely drilled and disciplined organization. As the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Field Artillery, headed by Colonel Robert L. Moorhead, '96, passed, especially Battery F, Butler College went wild with the enthusiasm of commingled pride and happiness.

"It is the proudest moment of my term in office to welcome you men home and to try to express to you the gratitude the people of this State feel," said Governor Goodrich in his official greeting. "While it was not your high privilege to see service on the battle-front, you have shown willingness to make the greatest sacrifices men can make for their country. We all are honored to have you back among us in civil life."

The remnant of the regimental fund not expended was by the vote of the soldiers divided between Butler College and Purdue University. To the college came eight hundred seventy-eight dollars and thirty-five cents, and is known as the "One Hundred Thirty-ninth Field Artillery Student Loan Fund," to be used for loans to members of the One Hundred Thirty-ninth or their immediate relatives who attend the college.

By January 24, the One Hundred Thirty-ninth regiment of Field Artillery had been mustered out. Its experience was a thing of the past; for it the great war was now a closed volume.

On May 7, 1919, the State welcomed home her veterans of many battles. The official date chosen was the event of the return of the One Hundred Fiftieth Field
Artillery of the Rainbow division and the Lilly Base Hospital Unit Number 32, the last organizations made up of Indianapolis and Indiana men to return; but the expression of appreciation and gratitude was for every Hoosier soldier, sailor and marine who had worn the uniform of his government during the World War. And indeed it was a glowing tribute Indiana paid to her service men. It was the one day of a life-time. People gathered by the hundred thousand to hold out laurel wreaths for the brows of her victors. They seemed everywhere. They packed the streets. They filled the windows and the stands along the route of march. They fringed the roofs of the office buildings. The decorations of the city were lavish and beautiful, abounding in the triumphant colors.

Under radiant skies the twelve thousand service men and women passed in a five-mile line of march as proudly as though in review before the whole world—and whoever had greater reason for so noble bearing! It would be difficult to imagine a more stirring picture than the procession as it approached the Victory Arch. As the silken cord was severed with a sword by veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, the parade entered the Victory Circle elaborately festooned with ropes of laurel swinging from white columns backed by stands of American flags. Air planes were humming low over the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ monument, lending a spectacular touch to a scene moving in the extreme. No wonder the crowd was exultant. Yet, almost as suddenly as it had burst into boundless enthusiasm, a deep silence fell upon it as the caisson drawn by four black horses paused in front of the north steps of the monument, from which a figure robed in white representing “Indiana” descended slowly and placed upon it a wreath of laurel.
Butler College was grouped beside the line of march and with proud enthusiasm hailed her boys as they passed individually or in companies or in automobiles bearing the wounded. She had cheers for the living and tears for her dead.

The formal welcome the college gave to her valorous sons occurred in Commencement week of 1919. The campus was never more beautiful nor the old buildings more festive than on that memorable seventeenth day of June. Throughout the chapel, the halls, the recitation rooms, were effectively and significantly placed the Stars and Stripes mingled with the Tri-color and the Union Jack. The old building unde profecti sunt was vocal with greeting and gratitude and patriotism. At four o’clock an audience gathered in the chapel to listen to a program presented by ex-service men. It was an informal program, at times extemporaneous, full of fine feeling and noble sentiment.

In the evening of this Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Day, the college entertained at dinner at the Claypool Hotel, the students who had been in service. The faculty, trustees, undergraduates and friends of the institution made the largest and most brilliant social assemblage in the history of the school. President Howe presided and introduced the speakers of the evening: Dr. Scot Butler, '68, and Judge Ira W. Christian, '80.

Thus ended a wonderful day*.

There had lingered overseas men who had accepted proffered scholarships for one term in French or English Universities; but in the summer these men, too, returned. By autumn came the men released from the Army of Occupation. They had left us as boys, they

*All that was said in the program of the afternoon and evening may be found in the Butler Alumnal Quarterly, July 1919.
returned to us serious men with well-defined ideas of the great elemental virtues of manhood: courage, truth, love, service, sacrifice. As their brothers had died for the Right, they came back to live for the Right. Some returned to Butler College to complete their course of study, others went elsewhere for academic training, and still others took up the business of life.

On December 14, 1919, in the college chapel a Memorial service was held in honor and in love of those students who did not return. Never had the old walls heard a sweeter, holier service than on that Sunday afternoon. The parents of the glorified boys were present, as were many alumni and friends of the institution. Dr. A. B. Philputt was the speaker of the occasion. A picture of the boys then known to have fallen in the service was presented by Miss Graydon. Lieutenant Earl T. Bonham, '20, drew back the flag which had veiled a bronze tablet thus engraved:

1917 IN MEMORIAM 1919

Carl Christian Amelung
Hilton U. Brown, Jr.
Conwell Burnside Carson
Kenneth Victor Elliott
Dean Weston Fuller
John Charles Good
Robert Edward Kennington
Henry Reinhold Leukhardt
Wilson Russell Mercer
Guy Griffith Michael
Marsh Whitney Nottingham
Victor Hugo Nysewander
It is given to man once to die
How then shall one more nobly die
Than in his country’s cause
And for the safety of mankind?

So died these. God be with them.
May they rest in peace.

In the name of the Alumni Association, Claris Adams, ’10, presented to the college the tablet with these words:

It is my privilege very briefly and very simply to perform a task which to each one of us is indeed a labor of love. We have gathered this afternoon as the sons and daughters and friends of Butler College, proudly bearing to our Alma Mater a precious gift. We come to enshrine upon the historic walls of this beloved institution a tablet sacred to those heroic dead, a tablet which was forged in the flame and smoke of battle, inscribed by the tears and prayers of countless loved ones, and hallowed by the supreme sacrifice of those to whose immortal memory it is erected as an imperishable memorial.

More than a year has passed since the dark clouds ceased to thunder their hymn of hate at Armageddon. More than a year has passed since the merciful hand of peace came to bind up the wounds of a broken world and heal the sorrowing heart of humanity. More than
a year has passed since the last hero fell fighting for his God and his country. And yet, although more than a year has passed we still cannot cast our eyes across to Flanders field and view the spectacle of the world except through a veil of tears. But every tear is jeweled, every grief is gilded, every sorrow is crowned by the pride of those who know that these, our loved ones, could not have died in a higher or a holier cause.

"As He died to make men holy,  
So they died to make men free."

And those who die in freedom's cause never die in vain.

Life is only an opportunity to serve, and who shall say that these who have fallen in the radiant morn of early manhood did not serve mankind as they could not serve although they had lived and labored three score years and ten. There is not need of brazen tablet, there is not need of art, of song or story to impress the names of these immortals upon the hearts of this generation. But we who are their beneficiaries, the beneficiaries of their heroism and sacrifice, desire thus to perpetuate their glory that succeeding generations of youth as they come into this mighty institution may read upon that tablet the heroic story of the glorious past, may catch inspiration from the lives of these, from the sacrifices of these, and thus achieve higher and nobler things, that they may resolve that they will preserve the fruits of victory so dearly gained, that they may catch the courage to defend, if need be, in their turn, these institutions of ours which these boys have defended with their lives and sanctified with their blood.
This is not an hour of sorrow, it is an hour of ineffable pride and love. "It is given to man once to die. How then shall one more nobly die than in his country's cause and for the safety of mankind? So died these. God be with them. May they rest in peace."

President Howe for the college accepted the gifts of picture and of tablet. "Taps" sounded. The close came—the close, but not the end. Still the vivid beautiful faces of these boys are seen; still their voices speak; still their souls too go marching on. They conquered though they died, and through their victory the Alma Mater has received her greatest impulse to that higher and finer living for which she was endowed.