

OUR VETERANS SPEAK

By
Thomas Walter Williams
and
Terence Victor Foster, Jr.

Prior to December 7, 1941, America's entry into World War II, our campus flourished with young men eagerly preparing themselves to take their respective places in a democratic society. Unfortunately, hostilities in Europe and in the Pacific upset their plans.

We take pride in mentioning the veterans of the Class of '46 who exchanged books for guns in order to defeat Nazism. They have returned to college to complete the task they left undone.

Who are these veterans? They are none other than James Charles Ellis, Joseph Daniel Parker, Samuel Chadwick, Jr., Walter Thomas Gibson, Odel Uzzell, Thomas Walter Williams, and Terence Victor Foster, Jr.

Let's have a word from each of the veterans. What have you to say Ellis?

Ellis:—"I left the college on March 12, 1943 and donned the "olive drab" on March 25, 1943. My assignment was with the 741 Army Anti-Aircraft Battalion, which endeavored to give training in combat enemy aircraft. My assignment was that of aircraft detector. After six months in the States I embarked for the Pacific on September 1943. In the Pacific the mission took me to Mirwinia Island, Finch, Spain and Manila. Despite the hot weather, my experiences in the Pacific were, all in all, interesting.

Before leaving I must tell you of that wonderful day, perhaps the greatest in my whole career, the day of army graduation. It was January 28, 1946. Now let's hear what Parker has to say."

Parker:—"I left the campus on October 1, 1942 and received my first free clothing the latter part of October. Clothing was not all, however, for I soon found myself with the Eighth Air Force which transported troops and equipment. My particular assignment was that of typographical surveyor. I was in the states thirteen months, three of which were spent at Virginia State College in the School of Surveying. I left the States for oversea duty in August 1943. Fortunately, I was in the European Theater of Operation, working in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia. My experiences in these countries were so numerous that to tell you of them is next to impossible. I will stop by telling you that my period of receiving free clothes ended in November 1945. Hear what the navy has to say Mr. Chadwick, go ahead."

Chadwick:—"With the army in force here I am almost afraid to speak, but since I was asked, I will look to you (the women) for support. I left the "States in June, 1942, and was robed in

navy blue by July 9, 1942. The ship to which I was assigned was the U. S. S. P. C. 1264, a combat vessel that carried a mixed crew. It was the only such vessel with Negro officers. My ship left for Europe on March 7, 1943 to carry patrol and escort duty around and outside the parts through the Allied troops passed. It was my duty to operate the store on the ship. Although sailors are mostly confined to their ship, I found time to go ashore at the various ports where the ship docked. If I had the time I would tell you about these seaport towns. Look me up at some future time. I merely have the time to tell you that I bade my ship farewell October 24, 1945. Here's Gibson, hear him."

Gibson:—"It was February 12, 1942 when I laid my books down here and eight days thereafter I was holstering a .45 automatic revolver. I need not tell you for I am sure you know, that I was assigned to an M. P. (military police) outfit. Although my job was administrative, there were times when I had to knock out a few rounds. Overseas duty began July 10, 1943. I covered England, France, Belgium and Germany. Life in these countries was grand but I felt like a lark on August 27, 1945 when I boarded a ship for the good old U. S. A. Upon my arrival in the States I received the "paper of papers," Honorable Discharge! Ok, Mr. Uzzell, take it away."

Uzzell:—"On March 12, 1943, I received greetings from the President of the United States, who was Franklin D. Roosevelt. I responded on March 25, 1943. It was determined that I was needed in the Quartermaster section, so that's where I went, taking on the duties of a supply sergeant. My services were needed in Europe, so in August, 1944 I was called there. I labored in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia. When this task was completed, I rejoiced that I had done a job well. Uncle Sam thought likewise and relieved me on November, 1945. I now present Mr. Williams."

Williams:—"My case is almost similar to that of the others. I was summoned March 12, 1943. A few days afterwards I was wearing O. D.'s (Olive Drabs). With a need for Negroes in the Armed Forces, I was assigned to one of the three Negro tank battalions (784th). As squad leader of a mortar gun I directed fire on enemy positions. My overseas duties began October 30th, 1944, taking me to England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. These countries have much to offer, but I was highly elated on April 9, 1946 to hit American soil once again. Five days afterwards, April 14th, (which I shall never forget) I became 'Mr. Williams' again. We have time for a word from you Mr. Foster."

Foster:—"Being last, I shall be brief. I was called to render my

SENIOR CLASS PLAY

"The Silver Cord," a comedy in three acts by Sidney Howard was the play chosen for presentation on May 17 and 18 by the senior class. Misses Mary Wilson Mima Melvin, Mary Joyner, and Messrs. Alphonza Sutton and Thomas Williams were figuring prominently in this production.

ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT DURHAM

Berline Ellison, Mary Alice Huggins, Dorothy Boykins, Rose Burwell, Hilda Harrell, Elaine Clark, accompanied by Miss Murphy, went to the YWCA Leadership Meeting in Durham, N. C. on April 27. The theme of the one-day meeting was "Building for Our Atomic Age." That this is a part of the business of the YWCA's was indicated by the speakers for the day. Mrs. Kay Ferrell, executive director of the YWCA at the University of North Carolina, highlighted her address on "Building Our Personal Lives" with the idea that "To live a worth while life, one must get an unattainable goal and work toward that goal. If we reach our goal, it was unworthy of our best." She reminded the group that the atomic energy has placed a moral obligation upon each individual, that because of the presence of this energy in America, peoples of the rest of the world fear America. It is an individual responsibility to bring about peace in order to eliminate this fear, but this peace will come for the world only when individuals have discovered it within themselves.

CABINET LOSING ITS ONLY SENIOR MEMBER

Mary E. Wilson graduates this year. She has been a member of the YWCA during her entire college career, and a cabinet member for three years. Her support in the Organization has been of great value in steering many of its activities towards success. Best of luck to you, Mary, and your associates in the "Y" believe that you will carry with you the same co-operative spirit which you exhibited in the Association.

services on March 12, 1943, and on March 25th, I became a soldier. My assignment was with the 1894th Aviation Engineer Battalion Engineer Battalion, as Supply Sergeant. It became necessary for the outfit to perform oversea duty, beginning in May, 1944. Our missions in the Pacific carries me to Honolulu, Saipan, and Okinawa. I shall not tell you of these places for the time is too short. The day which I shall remember is January 28, 1946. On this day my army career ended. Thank for listening."

Veterans of '46.

MY PRAYER

Each day give us our daily bread,
Guide us in every road that we tread,

Help us O God to love, to stay in
your bright foot steps all the way.

Help us who beg of Thee to feed
Help us in every humble need
Help us O God to always pray
To live with you throughout each day.

Help us to be forever true
Obedient, sincere and loving too.
Please cleanse our hearts of
hate and sin

Invite love and peace again.
Help us, O God, when faith grows
tall,

To fashion the loveliest thoughts
of all

Help us to live and always be
A friend to all with love and
faith in Thee.

Thurba Fuller—'47.

WANTED—

ONE HUNDRED ROCKS

Yes, the YWCA is asking for one hundred rocks, but each one must come from a different county in the State of North Carolina. The plan is to make a rock garden in some suitable place on the campus. The rocks must be large enough so that the name of the particular county can be painted on the rock. The garden will be in the shape of the State with each rock placed in the respective position of each county. A few rocks have been brought, but not nearly a hundred. Doesn't your county rate a rock? Of course it does. Bring it along, we need it!

FRESHMEN ARE COMING?

Pauline Adams has already worked out plans for assisting the freshmen who will come to college next year. Last year nine members of the "Y" were on hand to greet and aid the new members of our family. About twice that number is expected when school opens in the fall. It is believed that the present class was helped to a great extent because they came early enough to become acquainted with the place before settling down to serious work. They learned about some of the things which are always problems to new students, thus did not meet with the confusion which results from trying to learn too many things at one time.

CAP AND GOWN DAY

Cap and Gown Day fell on May 24. The speaker for the occasion was Dr. Luther H. Foster, president of Virginia State College.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. R. G. Deyton of Raleigh, North Carolina has been chosen to give the commencement address on Tuesday, May 28. He was educated at Harvard University and is at present with the Budget Bureau at Raleigh, N. C.