

22 Nov. 1944

Dear President Houghton,

While this letter wasn't intended as an apology, I imagine I can't very well avoid expressing my regrets at having missed you when I was last at Wagner. I say that I'm not apologizing because actually I accomplished everything I intended while on Staten Island. Primarily, I was interested in learning how the cabinets Einar and I had built in the laboratories were holding up — and I was satisfied, in fact, greatly relieved, to see that almost all of them were intact. You'll probably think me a liar and then some, but for over three years now I've worried as to their condition and I'm satisfied that they will stand another three years. Secondly — and no undue reflection are intended — I was interested in seeing Prety. I may have missed the opportunity to speak with you but I certainly couldn't have missed seeing you since, when I opened the Chapel door, a sight vividly reminiscent of many a chapel morning seemed to have been prepared for me. There was Prety,

The same President Stoughton who used to call his "family" aside for heart to heart chats over the conditions of the congress, the attitude of the underclassmen, and chapel attendance; the same old heart-warming approach which used to waste so much time but which was immediately forgiven since everyone felt the personal touch that urged one to reluctantly concede "well, just one more chapel service."

I don't know what could have been more appropriate than to see Party swing into form - unless perhaps I ^{had} met Mr. Cook and started another one of our once periodical sessions investigating our financial standing, or more adequately, reaching a precocious agreement as to what Wagner student was a mercenary ingrate. Good old Mr. Cook! But it was satisfying to see the chapel filled with warm, proud faces and to hear the number one man of Benjamen Hill justly reflect their guide. I believe I stood in the doorway for approximately three minutes, but in three minutes three years of army were undone and I was back at Wagner again.

While this all sounds like so much nonsense, what I really am trying to say is that I did see

you, President Stoughton, whatever complaints you may have as to the brevity of my visit.

at the time I was assigned, Temporary Duty at Fort Dix and had been for about four days Mrs. Bekke was visiting her home in Brooklyn at the time and, since I hadn't seen either her at Stevie in approximately a month, you can imagine why I had no desire to wait. However, I met Marguerite and she complained that no notice was given you of our marriage or of the birth of our son. I took exception to the complaint, however, and I'm sure you were informed. She insisted, however, that I had written no letter since leaving Sublock and I'm afraid that that was very true.

During the first few months of '43 I was anticipating tactical orders and expected to join a combat unit shortly. However, only a few days before such orders arrived, I was sent to Bryn Mawr for an Advanced Instrument Course. Upon return to Sublock I was to leave for B-26 light bombardment. However, Bryn had been authorized to retain some of their students as instrument in-

structures without necessity of requesting transfer
prior to such selection. The short story is that
I was retained at Bryan and immediately informed
that no transfer could be expected for at least a
year.

After approximately nine months of instrument
instruction at Bryan, I joined the ground school
at this station and, in addition to flying duties,
lectured and lectured and lectured. However,
my stay at Ground School lasted only about
three months after which a Board was
designated by Training Staff as the AAS
Instrument Flying Standardization Board of which
I became a member. At present the Board
has further increased both in size and re-
sponsibility and it provides an extremely interest-
ing duty although the volume of flying that
I know log is decreasing. My duties con-
sist largely of experimental flying and the
writing of Technical Orders and in conjunction
with Instrument Training.

The most significant change is, of course,
the fact that I altered my marital status
and wisely so. You have met Mrs. Bakke

several years ago in Brooklyn but I don't very
 much that you recall her. Sufficient to say that
 a happier couple have yet to be

Should I find occasion to visit New York
 again soon, you may be certain that I'll
 take advantage of it to see you. Greetings
 to Mrs. Stoughton and to the Wayne family.

Dear

CAPT. OSCAR BAKKE
O-660543
BRYAN ARMY AIR FIELD
BRYAN, TEXAS.



FREE

DR. CLARENCE C. STOUGHTON
WAGNER COLLEGE,
GRYHES HILL,
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.