1944

Washington, L. Barnwell 1944-45 (typescript)

MSRC Staff

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Chaplain Barnwell L. Washington
Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pa.

Dear Chaplain Washington:

I think you will be interested in the following statement which was included in the indorsement of your monthly report to the Chief of Chaplains:

"The Commanding General notes with appreciation the unusual interest of this Chaplain in his men as is indicated by the institute conducted by him and noted under paragraph S."

I also wish to express to you my appreciation of the fine interest manifested by the organization of the institute for your men who are interested in preaching the gospel.

Faithfully Yours,

/s/ Ralph C. Deibert
/ft/ RALPH C. DEIBERT
Chaplain (col.) USA
Service Command Chaplain

RCD/heb

A TRUE COPY

JOSEPH A. Lane
Chaplain (1st Lieut.)
1325th Service Unit.
Post Chaplain,

Dear Chaplain,

I am writing a letter which should have been written many months ago. My unit was activated and trained at Indiantown Gap. During our garrison there, we were privileged to become acquainted with Chaplain L. B. Washington. The interest that he showed for us and the cordial and friendly association with us will never be forgotten.

I feel that we were not fully cooperative with him as we never could show an honorable attendance at his services — not because of the service, as they were excellent, but because on week-ends, we all went to our homes nearby. My men are all from communities within week-end traveling distance from Harrisburg.

Nevertheless, Chaplain Washington stood with us and on several occasions gave us an inspiring message during meal time. Upon our alert for overseas duty, Chaplain Washington gave us the incentive for our future. He spent much of his valuable time with us and upon our departure, accompanied us to the Railhead where he bid us a farewell. I know each man will never forget that moment. I know I won't.

It was truly a pleasure for me and my men to have had the association of Chaplain Washington.

/s/ Arthur L. Larson
/s/ ARTHUR L. LARSON
Capt., QMC
Commanding

A TRUE COPY
R. E. Stanton
Chaplain (1st Lieut.)
Post Chaplain

HEADQUARTERS
384TH QM TRUCK COMPANY
APO 928

11 May 1944
Subject: Commendation of Chaplain L. Barnwell Washington

To: Whom it may concern

Chaplain L. Barnwell Washington was one of my students in Chaplains School and later was assigned to the Chief of Chaplains Reserve pool at Fort McClellan, Ala. of which I was the instructor. I found him to be a diligent and conscientious student and a willing worker. It gives me pleasure to commend him and trust that he will be shown every possible courtesy and that he will enjoy great success in the units to which he may be assigned.

Oscar W. Reynolds
Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) U.S. Army
Post Chaplain
Formerly Senior Instructor
The Chaplains School

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

MAURICE R. TAUS,
Captain, 371st Infantry,
Adjutant.
Dear Chaplain Washington,

The time that I have spent with you as your assistant has been very helpful to me, spiritually. I've, indeed, enjoyed working with you, and I regret to see you go, but then again, I'm glad that you are going, because a change of climate is good for us at times.

I am hoping that, when you arrive at your new station, you will do your best, as you've always done. I also am hoping that you will be able to have me transferred to wherever you are, because I would very much like to go where you go. I enjoy working with honest, square, upright men, and you are, in my opinion, just that.

My wife joins me in wishing you, Godspeed, and she is hoping that we will be working together again soon. God bless you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Archie J. Oliver, Jr.,
Corporal, Infantry,
Chaplain's Assistant.
HEADQUARTERS
Fort McClellan, Alabama
Office of the Chaplain

May 12, 1943

Dear Chaplain Washington,

It is with utmost and deepest regrets that I see you leave the 18th Area Chapel, First Regiment, IRTC, Fort McClellan, Ala. For the duration of your stay here, I have found you to excel above all Chaplains whom I've ever encountered, and consequently you have become my most inspiring IDEAL.

Working under your supervision was not only a pleasure but an honor for me as well. Each moment of toil was highly cherished.

Owing to the above, please allow me to request that I continue my service as YOUR assistant regardless wherever you may go. I feel confident that I will be more of a credit to Uncle Sam under your authority than anything else I know. Please bear in mind that pertaining to my transfer distance is no factor.

Hoping you will give this letter favorable consideration, I conclude by wishing you the best of Health, Happiness, and Prosperity. May God forever Bless you and help keep you the man you now are.

Yours for God and America,

Cpl. Rollin D. Reese
organist-clerk

A true copy

THOMAS H. WHEPLEY
Chaplain, Major
Post Chaplain
Indiantown Gap, M.R., Penna.
INDIANTOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION
PENNSYLVANIA

CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE T10 - 217

21 November 1944

My dear Dr. Johnson:

I am pausing a moment that I may express my gratitude to you and those who work with you in publishing such fine Bulletins, The Howard University Bulletins, which I have received thus far. As I look through the Bulletins, I am made to feel very grateful that I am one of the sons of Howard. We are proud of you, Dr. Johnson, for we realize that Howard cannot be any greater than her President.

By the last Bulletin I have received, I found out that I did not inform the School of the changes I have made. As you note by the above address, I am at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania. I was transferred here, May 20, 1944. On August 5, 1944, I was promoted to the rank of Captain. For about one year, I served this entire Post. At present, another colored Chaplain is assigned here.

Please find a small "Photo" of myself. You will note that it is a Glossy Type, suitable for paper work. You will also find copies of some of the letters of commendations that I have received. I am mailing them that you can get an idea of the work I am doing. I was told that I have the only Institute in the Nation's Army. This Institute was organized for the purpose of training men who were preachers in Civilian Life, and were poorly trained. I want to send them back better prepared to take up where they have left off. These men are taught Religious Education, a bit of Theology, and English. Up to date, 36 men are enrolled in the Institute. The group gets larger weekly. As to my Worship Services, we were told that we have the largest attendance on the Post. I have had as many as 1028 Soldiers in service at one time. They came on their own volition.

I am sure Mrs. Washington wishes to join me in sending love to you and fine family.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

L. Barnwell Washington
Chaplain (Captain)

M.A. in Religious Education

21 June, 1939

Undergraduate work at Johnson C. Smith
Dear Dean Nelson,

During my hours for departure for overseas duty, your most encouraging letter came to me. It was so close upon the heel of my leaving that I was not able to answer and thank you for the same.

I am now somewhere in Dutch New Guinea. This is a very beautiful country, but little or no civilization. However, the splendor of the high mountains and the high trees, point to nothing but the power of the Great God of us all. Then too, as one steps to the beautiful Coral Lake and sees the beautiful coral shells, and the various other shells of great beauty, within himself there is civilization. Many of the men go out daily in search of these most beautiful shells. They make them into bracelets and necklaces, and sell them for a very pleasing price. People buy them because they afford them with something precious from New Guinea.

I have had the opportunity of seeing some of the cities of the Philippines. The beautiful City, Manilia, affords one with much admiration. In spite of the battle in this city, Manilla still proves her once being a place of extreme beauty. The opportunity over here is great, and I hope to make all possible use of it.

I am enclosing herewith, an extract copy of a letter from my Commanding Officer of Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Penna.

From the previous Howard Bulletins that I have received, I glean that my name was recorded wrongfully. Instead of L. Burwell, it is L. Barnwell. I shall be too happy if you would correct this for me wherever and by whom the mistake was made.

I shall be more than happy to hear from you at all times. I shall also be too happy to receive any Bulletin from our Alma Mater, Howard University. My prayer is that I shall ever hold high the banner of Howard University.

Love to your family, also to President Johnson and his family. Please remind others of me.

May the Great God of Heaven ever guide you and your family, enabling you to continue the great work you are doing as Dean of the School we love so well.

Respectfully yours,

L. Barnwell
Chaplain (Captain) USA
Dean Wm. Stuart Nelson  
Howard University  
School of Religion  
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Dr. Nelson:

Just a line to let you know that I am now stationed at the above address. It is very likely that I will remain here for sometime; maybe for the duration of the emergency.

I was very sorry that I was unable to contact you during my stay in Washington, after my return from overseas. Each time that I came by the School you were away.

I think I will attend the annual School of Religion Convocation, this year; if I have sufficient notice of the date I can apply for DS and get it.

Wishing for you and the faculty a very successful school year, I remain,

Very truly yours

Chaplain E.M. Durden

Rec'd Dean's Office  
School of Religion  
Aug. 10, 1945