

215

Note. This Questionnaire should be completed so far as possible with such information as can be furnished at once, and returned with photographs and additional notes or letters, if available, to **Department of Historical Records, State Library, Hartford, Conn.**

D. H. R.—Form 1
State Library



State of Connecticut

4276

MILITARY SERVICE RECORD

Compiled by the Department of Historical Records of the Connecticut State Council of Defense, State Library, Hartford, where it will be filed, as a permanent memorial of the deeds of Connecticut soldiers and sailors in the service of the federal, state and allied governments during American participation in the World War.

Name in full Cofrancesco, Humbert Francis
(family name) (first name) (middle names)

Date of birth January 25th 1900
(month) (day) (year)

Place of birth New Haven, New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America
(town) (county) (state) (country)

Name of father Ralph Cofrancesco Birthplace Italy
(country)

Maiden name of mother Elizabeth Carleglio Birthplace Italy
(country)

Are you White, Colored, Indian or Mongolian? White

Citizen Yes Voter No Church Roman Catholic
(yes or no) (yes or no) (denomination)

Married No at _____

To _____ Born _____ at _____
(maiden name)

Children _____ Born _____ at _____
(name)

_____ Born _____ at _____

_____ Born _____ at _____

Fraternal Orders None

Previous military service or training None

Occupation before entry into the service Student; graduate of Horace Day Grammar School (1914); of New Haven High School (1918); about to enter Yale College; employer

Residence before entry into the service 2 Asylum St., New Haven, New Haven
(street number) (town) (county)

Present home address 2 Asylum St., New Haven, New Haven, Connecticut
(street number) (town) (county) (state)

WAR RECORD

Inducted into service or enlisted on October 3rd, 1918, at New Haven,
(date) (place)
Connecticut,
 as a Private,
(rank)
 in the Field Artillery
(infantry, artillery, aviation, etc.) section of
 the National Army
(regular Army, National Guard, Home Guard, National Army, Navy, Naval Reserve, or Marine Corps)

Assigned originally to Battery "B", Students' Army Training
(company) (regiment) (division)
 (or) Corps, Yale University at New Haven, Connecticut
(ship) (place)

Trained or stationed before going to Europe: — Did not go to Europe
 School, camp, station, ship From (date) to (date)
Yale University, September 26th, 1918 — December 19th, 1918.
New Haven, Conn.

Transferred to: —

Company	Regiment	Division	Ship	Date	New Location
Special duty in office of				Nov. 13th, 1918	S. A. T. C.,
Quartermaster					Yale Univ.,
					N. H., Ct.

Promoted: — No.

From (rank) to (rank) Date

Embarked from (port) on (ship) (date) and arrived at (foreign port) (date)

Proceeded from to (date)

From to (date)

From to (date)

Trained or stationed abroad: —

Country Place From (date) to (date)

NOTE: — Should form or space in any case prove inadequate for recording the desired information, please state facts on separate sheet of paper and enclose with this record.

WAR RECORD

~~First went into action~~ _____ (date) _____ (place)

~~Participated in the following engagements~~ _____

~~Cited, decorated, or otherwise honored for distinguished services (give circumstantial accounts of exploits, including dates and places where performed, also by whom and in what manner the honors were bestowed):~~ _____

~~Killed in action, killed by accident, died of wounds, died of disease, wounded, gassed, shell-shocked, taken prisoner:~~

~~Nature of casualty~~ _____ ~~Place~~ _____ ~~Date~~ _____

~~Under medical care:~~

~~Name of hospital~~ _____ ~~Location~~ _____ ~~From (date)~~ _____ ~~to (date)~~ _____

~~Permanently disabled (through loss of limb, eyesight, etc.):~~ _____ (specify disability) _____

~~Arrived at~~ _____ ~~ON~~ _____ ~~(ship)~~ _____ ~~(date)~~ _____ ~~(from)~~ _____

Discharged from service at New Haven, Connecticut December 19th, 1918

as a Private _____ (rank)

RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE

Occupation after the war Student, Class of 1922 at Yale College

~~If a change of occupation was occasioned by reason of disability acquired in the service, describe the process of re-education and readjustment, and indicate the agencies or individuals chiefly instrumental in furnishing the new occupations:~~ _____

NOTE: — Should form or space in any case prove inadequate for recording the desired information, please state facts on separate sheet of paper and enclose with this record.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What was your attitude toward military service in general and toward your call in particular?

See separate sheets annexed hereto.

What were the effects of camp experiences in the United States upon yourself — mental and physical?

See separate sheets annexed hereto.

~~What were the effects upon yourself of your overseas experience, either in the army or navy or in camp in France or in England?~~

~~If you took part in the fighting, what impressions were made upon you by this experience?~~

What has been the effect of all these experiences as contrasted with your state of mind before the war?

See separate sheets annexed hereto.

Photographs — If possible enclose one taken before entering the service and one taken afterwards in uniform, both signed and dated.

Additional data

None.

Signed at *New Haven, Connecticut* on *July 23rd*, 1919.

Humbert Francis Francisco (full name) *Private* (rank) *Field Artillery 2nd M.C.* (branch of service)

The information contained in this record, unless otherwise indicated, was obtained from the following persons or sources:

Honorable discharge; and Humbert Francis Francisco.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RECORDS, STATE LIBRARY, HARTFORD, CONN.

QUESTION: WHAT WAS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MILITARY SERVICE IN
GENERAL AND TOWARD YOUR CALL IN PARTICULAR?

ANSWER:

Military service is one of the most interesting and vital incidents in a man's life, so far as I am able to judge from my own experience.

Military service was new to me in that it seemed to shut out the entire civil world; it is a realm by itself. It has its own way of dealing with problems of a similar character in civil life. It has its own courts; service of supplies; methods of sanitation and hygiene; its own traditions and customs; etc. The army functions from the standpoint of a maximum of work-accomplishments; efficiency, speed, satisfaction, and admiration with a minimum of discomfort for the personnel.

Of course there are exceptions to the above statements. Time and time again, I saw grumblers—those who always complained when detailed for policing or fatigue duty; those who were repeatedly reprimanded for slight infractions of discipline, due to apparent carelessness and inattentiveness. No discrimination or preference was evident in the attitude taken toward the members of the Students' Army Training Corps at Yale University. It was, indeed, curious to see the workings of democracy—for such it was.

The attitude toward the officers deserves ample consideration. After all complaints of the psychological incompetence of certain officers—a minority—especially non-commissioned officers—have been thoroughly analyzed, we arrive at the same conclusion: if ever one in command had been unfit to exercise authority in civil life, he was doubly sure of committing like blunders in the army. In such individual—and rare—cases of inability to hold power and use it according to judgment, our army should not be made the center of attacks, for on the whole, the officers were an efficient, competent, capable set of men, who demonstrated their willingness and ability to cope with all situations at all times and under all circumstances.

With the above considerations in mind, I took a favorable and impressive attitude toward military service.

In my particular work, I was anxious to ascertain the degree of success of military and co-educational work. Although the plan of the Students' Army Training Corps, as a part of the National Army did not work out as smoothly as expected, nevertheless creditable work was accomplished. In fact, we may realize the importance of combined military and vocational work by the inducements offered in those lines in the army at the present time.

Hubert S. Cofrancesco.

QUESTION: WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF CAMP EXPERIENCES IN THE UNITED STATES UPON YOURSELF-MENTAL AND PHYSICAL?

ANSWER:

The most pronounced effect on me was physical. The human body was a living engine in the army. With painstaking care, every precaution was taken to safeguard the men's health, especially during the influenza epidemic. In fact, every man was, upon his discharge, healthier-stronger and stouter. All weaknesses and feebleness were eliminated. Backs were straightened; round shoulders disappeared.

One of the losses of military training most seriously felt by the ex-soldier will be that of good, healthful physical exercises and drills. Even for no other reason but this should America adopt some sane plan of giving every able-bodied youth in the land a certain amount of military training.

Military training was beneficial mentally, as well as physically. One had to be alert, energetic, attentive, responsive to any duty. The drills in particular demanded a steady, concentrated mental effort. Military topography taught the man to be keen, observant, appreciative of details under unusual, and sometimes, discomfiting circumstances.

QUESTION: WHAT HAS BEEN THE EFFECT OF ALL THESE EXPERIENCES AS CONTRASTED WITH YOUR STATE OF MIND BEFORE THE WAR?

ANSWER:

My idea, or state of mind before the war-and I feel certain I am voicing the sentiments of others who have seen service elsewhere-was very dissimilar to my actual experience. I used to think that army life was very dull and monotonous; lacking that stimulative, creative force, which we call spirit. But I found the army to be as human as-if not more so, than any other organization, institution, or association of people. By its heterogeneous character, it lacked no worldly element. It contained every variety of people-from the point of view of race, nationality, religion, political views, domestic and financial conditions, manners, thoughts, ambitions. Its diversity made it an attraction-a loveableness in itself. Its morale was high; it was enthusiastic, looking forward to some great accomplishment. This is, indeed, an amazingly novel ^{thing} to one who had a rather radically different pre-war conception of military life and experience.

I am of the opinion that all former soldiers have more respect and admiration for the army and military training than ever; and if ever there was a time for introducing a light system of military training-e.g., the Swiss system-it will now meet with hearty approval on the part of a very large majority of the people; for now is the psychological moment.

Hubert S. Cochrane



Humbert F. Cofrancesco-
Dec. 22nd, 1918.

Humbert F. Cofrancesco
New Haven



Hogeweghemman Studio
- 1918 -

Humbert V. Cofrancesco,
Dec. - 1917

New Haven