

A Not-So-Peculiar People: Adventists and the Military

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Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians

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In the Beginning...



The Collection

- Letters
- Directives
- Memos
- Orders
- Publications
- Curriculum materials
- Oral history recordings
- 445 Photographs
- Negatives
- Nearly 3000 ft. Film
- Uniforms & insignia
- Memorabilia
- Newspaper clippings

Barrien Springs, Mich.
Sept. 12, 1940

Dr. E.W. Dick
Union College
Lincoln, Nebr.

Dear Dr. Dick:

Well I've arrived and have some more of the details of this Medical Cadet set-up here. From everything that I've seen and heard so far it should be the best in the bunch. There is a good spirit in the school for the training program in spite of the abject failure of the two previous attempts at the formation of a corps.

To all appearances at least there will be approximately 100^{about 120} to 150 in the corps with each man required to get a uniform on entrance. The uniform will be the regular uniform adopted by the Lake Union Conference. I suppose at least that you are familiar with the uniform through Elder Dunbar, who by the way seems to be a very fine man and one that will be a pleasure to work with.

Due to the work program here at the school we will run the training program in two sections, which will be duplicates. Both of them will be on Sunday, and each will last four hours. The first from 8 to 12 Sunday morning and the second in the afternoon from 1 to 5. It will certainly be a busy day for me to say the least, as I'm unable to find anyone who has had enough of the military end of the drill to even help out. I suppose that I'll have to bank on the old saying that where there's a will there's a way.

The administration of the College here is doing all that a person could ask for in the way of helping out in the program.

Elder Dunbar told me yesterday that they were expecting well over a hundred at the two weeks encampment, and so I spoke to President Klooster about the possibility of my getting off for the occasion. He of course stated that he would have to take the matter up with the Dean, but at the same time gave me to understand that the answer would be yes. I would suggest that you take the matter up with President Klooster when you are certain that there will be the number of enrollees at the camp that Elder Dunbar seems to think will be. That is, of course, providing that you will still need me. I will be glad of the opportunity myself.

Well, it was hard to leave old Union and all that it means to me, but I think that it will be pleasant here, and I hope that it will be for the best. My very good wishes to you and to Union with the hope that it will the best year yet.

Sincerely

Clark Smith

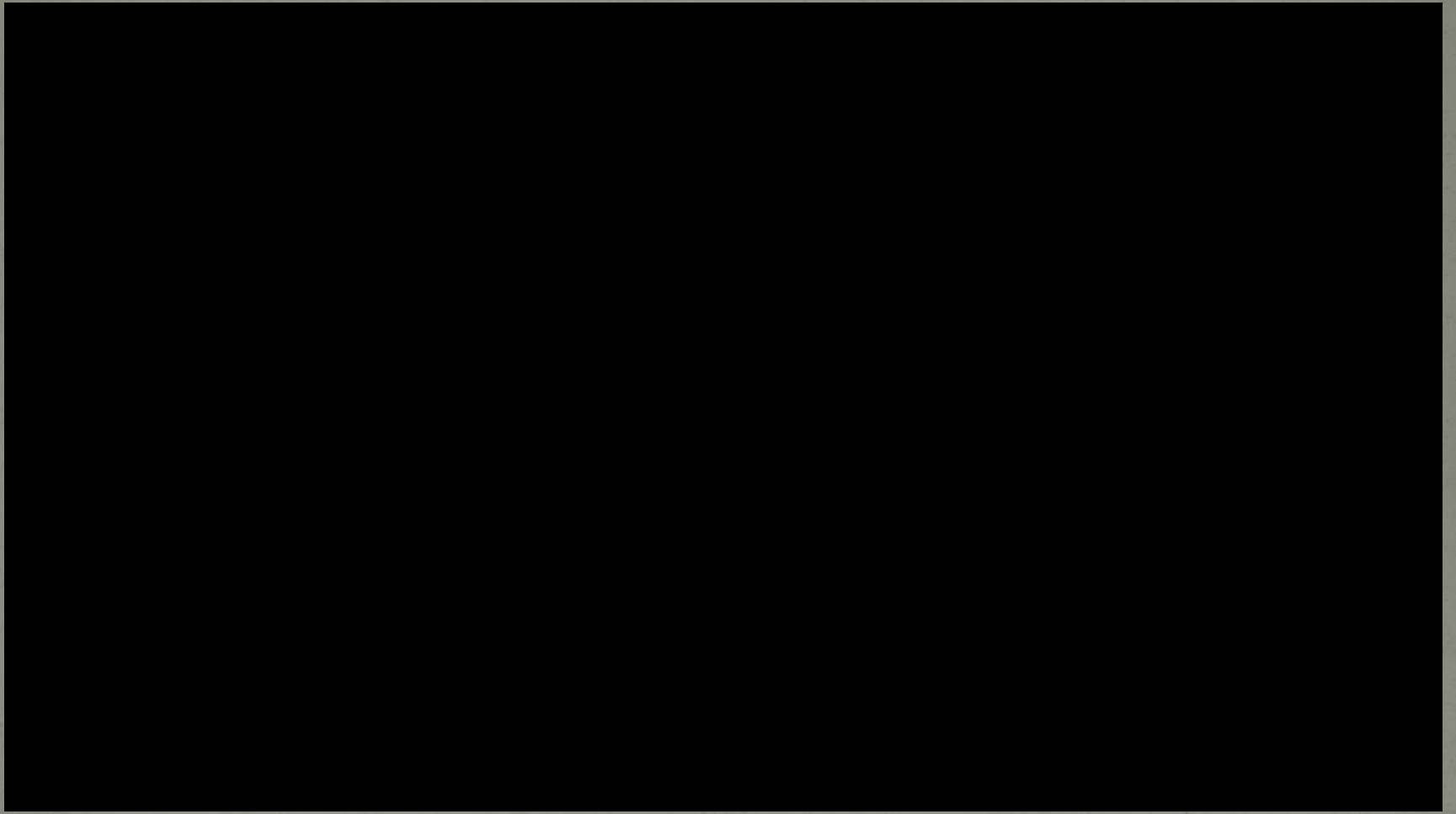


Medical Corps

An Honors Thesis

- Accomplishments
 - Funding for film reformatting
 - Discovered Peter Brock
 - Interview with Orason Brinker





Research Questions

William E. Juhnke asks:

What of the Adventist's biblical basis for opposition to combatant military service? To what extent is Adventist "conscientious cooperation" enriched by Matthew 5? Have Adventists refused to kill primarily because doing so dishonors God, particularly if done on the Sabbath, or primarily because it is blessed to make peace and practice love even to one's enemies? And if Adventist have emphasized the Old Testament, have there been practical effects?

5 Sources of 20th Century Pacifism

- Anabaptist and Mennonite nonresistance
- Quaker peace testimony
- Jehovah Witness conscientious objection
- Institutional peace societies
- Socialist antimilitarism

--Peter Brock

Toward a Theoretical Framework

- George McKenna, *The Puritan origins of American patriotism* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007). – A broad survey of Yankee influence in American history.
- Brian C. Wilson, *Yankees in Michigan*. Discovering the peoples of Michigan. (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2008). – Yankee diaspora's impact on Michigan. Adventism as a new Yankee religion.
- Malcolm Bull, "The Seventh-day Adventists: Heretics of American Civil Religion," *SA. Sociological Analysis* 50, no. 2 (1989): 177–87.

Survey of Materials in Other Collections

- Southern
 - <http://knowledge.e.southern.edu/>
 - Yearbooks
 - Handbooks
- Southwestern
 - Student newspaper
 - Yearbooks
 - Photographs
- Walla Walla
 - Sent a binder – mostly from student newspaper
 - College history book

Other Identified Collections

- Loma Linda University Heritage Center
 - Cyril Courville Collection
- Center for Adventist Research
 - Wilfried J. Kramer Collection
- General Conference ASTR
 - World War I folder which may be the original testimonies in Francis M. Wilcox's book: *Seventh-day Adventists in Time of War*

Non-Adventist Sources

- National Archives
 - Court martial transcripts – may be useful in identifying Adventist soldiers and sailors
- Library of Congress
 - Photographs of prisoners at Fort Leavenworth

The Survey is Still Open

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWQVQJM>

Selected Sources

- Brock, Peter and Nigel Young. *Pacifism in the Twentieth Century*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1999.
- Bull, Malcolm. "The Seventh-day Adventists: Heretics of American Civil Religion." *SA. Sociological Analysis* 50, no. 2 (1989): 177–87.
- McKenna, George. *The Puritan origins of American Patriotism*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007. Accessed January 28, 2016. eBook Collection (EBSCOhost).
- Schlabach, Theron F. and Richard T. Hughes, eds. *Proclaim Peace: Christian Pacifism From Unexpected Quarters*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1997.
- [Union College Heritage Collections](#).
- Wilson, Brian C. *Yankees in Michigan*. Discovering the peoples of Michigan. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2008.