



# Journal

April 14, 1941 A.D.

College Station

I begin this journal a few years before I had intended to begin it.

I say it is a journal, a private journal of my life, to which I shall make entries from time to time. I begin it early because I feel that the



fighting for their democracies.

We and the British are helping in their fight. Yes, Britain who stands as a mighty bulwark against the German onslaught, fighting desperately for her freedom. We in America realize that her fight is our fight and at the present time, the situation is grave.

The campaign in Greece and Yugoslavia which up to now was in favor of the Allies has taken a turn for the worse and the German regions are pressing dangerously near Uey, Britain's lifeline. The develops of the next few days and weeks will affect us in America as well as the people of the rest of the world.



But enough of history. This is as  
I said a personal journal of  
my life. I have been trying to  
show though that because of the  
present situation my life as well  
as the lives of many of my friends  
and fellow-men may be greatly  
influenced.

My life up to the present time



Handwritten text on a yellowed, rectangular piece of paper with rounded corners. The text is partially obscured by a black redaction bar below it.

Handwritten text, possibly a name or title, including a plus sign and some illegible characters.

and by so doing inject my personality  
into theirs and also improve and  
broaden my own by coming in  
contact with them; are my reasons  
for wanting an education. When  
I speak I want people to listen.  
People won't listen and become  
interested in uneducated personalities  
and so here at A & M, I am  
endeavoring to prepare myself  
to these tasks. I am not altogether  
pleased with H. M. There is very  
much to be learned and digested here  
there is also much to be chewed up  
and spit out.



7

school pretty well. The entries  
to follow will not be made from  
day to day. I shall enter into this book  
events of my life at my own ~~convenience~~  
convenience.

College Station April 15,

Uneventful day, but it served  
its purpose of curing me homesickness.

these lines or not depends on the present world situation and upon my own financial situation.

College Station April 16,

A little low again today. The Greeks and British are still retreating. The President said today that there are limits on the



9  
President is said to be considering convoys  
for these ships. This will take America  
war ships almost if not into the war  
zone. It seems that war is inevi-  
table for us in America. It's only a  
matter of time, a year maybe two  
maybe months. I pray God that  
I'm wrong, but there is talk of it  
every where, it is common conver-



College Station April 17,

Beautiful day today. 50 more days till summer vacation.

The English and Greeks are fighting fiercely and seem to be holding the Nazis to a certain extent any how. The war in Greece is bound to reach a crisis soon. If the German are victorious in Greece, war for the U.S. will surely be inevitable.

Quiz in Chemistry for tomorrow. My attitude toward chemistry has changed. I dread each hour that I have to spend in Chem classes. Five hour labs in one subject is entirely too much.



College Station April 18,

11

Bud Ramsey is dead. I received a letter from Mom & Jerry (Clara) today. He died at sea after an emergency operation. Good old Bud, a true friend of every one. Jerry in her letter today expressed I think what everyone feels about Bud "He was so good and sweet and thoughtful" Yes everyone was crazy about Bud. I don't know what boat he was on. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu. He was nothing but a friend, but I'll never forget him.



College Station April 19,

Just in from a movie ("Kitty  
Foyle") Shirley (Serg. Estes) is on  
his way up here. It will be good  
to have someone from home here.

College Station April 21,

Shirley spent the night Sat and  
stayed until 4:30 Sun. It was good  
have someone from home with  
me. We spent hours just talk-  
ing over the times we had in  
the 111th. Obs. Sq. We spent an  
hour at the airport, watching the  
planes and dreaming. I'm going  
to a dance given by the 111th.  
on May 3rd. I have asked June  
to go with me.



College Station April 23,

13  
Another rainy day. I have a few quizzes coming up this week and the next. Chemistry worries me the most. After I finish the course I'm now taking, I think I shall drop chemistry from my list of subjects. I have been expecting a letter from my mother. I guess we shall go to Bud Ramsey's funeral this Sunday. 44 more days until June?

I saw James Stewart & Bedy Zamar to day in "Come Live With me" very interesting.



College Station April 27,

Another week. Again I'm alone in my room at school, feeling much the same as I always do after a visit home. As the days roll along up here, away from home, I become convinced as I have always thought <sup>in the past</sup> that I possess a very complex character or personality. I experience such mixed emotions and feelings. I have ambition; I know I have, and yet I become discouraged so easily. Maybe it's normal and experienced by many boys of my age, but I have trouble (so much trouble) making up my mind. I am freshman



15

in College and still I have not made up my mind as to my place in this world. I have felt all my life that I had a definite place in this world, but as yet I don't know. Hanging over me also, which makes my future still more uncertain, is one great if: War!

I thought I had the plan many times in the past. First it was Pet. Eng. then the army & West Point. then aviation and Randolph Field. then a secret desire, medicine and one suppressed desire that has always been with <sup>me</sup> actor. Also a deep desire for travel. So



on this day in April, 1941. I  
W<sup>m</sup> D. Lewis have a very indefinite,  
uncertain future, but I do know  
this; that I was placed on this  
earth for a purpose and until  
this purpose has been filled I  
shall be looking, looking for the  
one job, the one position that I  
am to fulfil in God's name.

I feel that I shall soon  
know, I must!

The Greeks and the British  
are losing. The Allied campaign  
in Greece is hopeless. The German  
hordes, wave upon wave, are  
sweeping nearer & nearer to Luey!



College Station April 28,

~~Correct Correction on~~

Correction on entry of April 27,

The Greeks and British have lost,  
and a Nazi flag flies from the  
capitol of Greece at Athens.

Germany is trying to destroy  
the British power in the  
Mediterranean.

College Station May 4,

Just got back from home. I  
and my room-mate are just  
getting ready to study (a little). I  
say a little because my mind is  
still in Houston. Gosh! but I  
had fun over the week-end. Diving  
and dancing at San Jacinto Inn



and June, she was wonderful  
prettier than ever and sweet  
too. I like that little girl ~~so~~  
very much, very very much.  
I have 33 more days to go  
and then I shall be making  
entries to this journal from  
dear ole' Houston.

The war situation is bad  
and so mixed up that I can't  
take the time to put it into  
writing, but history is in the  
making and it's a strange  
feeling to have this old world be-  
come so dark, so unknown and  
yet so real. The president of  
Harvard University said to-day



that we in America had no alternative, that we should declare war against Germany tomorrow and speak to Britain's rescue. Joe said that each month that we wait we are prolonging the war three months.

College Station: May 9,

Only 28 more days.

Got a letter from June today.

It's funny how I wait for letters from that sweet little girl, me a confirmed woman hater; but I do wait for them and how.

War is near; so near that it sends shivers down my back



just to think of it. Something happened in the Chemistry Laboratory today. A boy was making a thermite bomb when it went off prematurely and burned his face badly his eyes especially are endangered. There was a loud explosion <sup>and</sup> then a boy screaming Oh! Oh! I want is any thing like that and I know it must be even worse, I want nothing to do with it.

May 11, Mother's Day

College Station.





College Station May 28.

Nine days to go until Summer  
Vacation. Exam week, next week.

My grades are pretty good, and  
I won't have to take all my exams.



the word attract. History is in  
the making.

Sept. 22, at

Houston.

I return to my neglected journal  
for a moment. Long enough to record  
that I did not return to H. M. College  
this term, nor will I ever return.

My reasons for not going back at  
this time are of course as ever money &  
money. I shall, however, do everything  
in my power to return to my College  
career someday as soon as possible.

My desire to become a doctor increases  
every day and my other ambitions  
are slowly fading. If I could but



become a doctor. It will take  
so much money and if it takes  
money only a miracle can help  
me now to realize my ambitions  
and ideals. However, I'm taking  
a training course, at the Y, in  
preparation for a mental exam I  
will take on Nov. 12 of this year;  
and if I am able to score 80 or  
above I shall have gained the  
right to enter the Aviation Cadets  
of the United States. Whether or  
not I take this step depends on  
my financial set up: If I can ~~scrape~~  
scrape up enough money to continue  
my college I will do just that. If  
not I shall join the U. S. Air Corps.



25  
The war crisis is still grave;  
The Germans claim that Kiev has  
fallen and that Russia will soon  
fly the Nazi flag.

At Home in Houston

Oct. 8, 1941

Received a letter from Ellington  
Field yesterday asking me to report  
for my physical exam. I have  
just answered it asking for postpone-  
ment. There may be a chance for  
me to go back to school as long  
as there is the slightest chance I  
must wait. School means more  
to me now than it ever did.  
All the time that I have spent in  
school in the past, I have gone



from ~~one~~ course to another, trying  
to find the one thing that I wanted  
to make my life's work, and now  
that I've finally found it, I'm out  
of school and there is only a chance  
that I'll be able to go back, and  
what I want to do will take so  
long and so much money.....

October 15,

Houston.

Have made up my mind for  
better or for worse. I shall go  
back to school as soon as my  
financial status has been raised.  
A medical Degree is my goal  
and I pray that I can make it.



27  
Mom says that it is not for  
me but I think, ... I know  
that it is.

October 20, 41.

Houston,

News reports today are far from  
bright. The United States is  
(says spokesmen in Washington)  
tottering on the brink of war.

The U.S. Destroyer "Kearney,"  
which was torpedoed by a German  
sub a few days ago, came into  
port yesterday with eleven of her  
crew dead, and many injured.

Secretary of State Hull said to-  
day that "one does not often send  
diplomatic notes to international



highwaymen'

Sunday Oct. 26,

Houston,

I went down to the station early this morning to see Shirley (now Lt. Sgt. Estes) and all the old gang of the 111th. Observation Squadron. They were just passing through on their way from Camp Bowie to Greenville S. Carolina. It was a scene that could have been taken from a motion picture or stage play of the war or wars, anyone of them from 1812 down to World War II. Men laughing and talking, greeting friends and



29

loved ones. There were of course some who were not met at the train but on the whole it was a riotous occasion indeed. They were here for a small moment then again there was a mad rush around the cars and then they were gone again. There was not a tear shed that I could see. I pray that these boys will always take their leave among laughter and joyful faces, but I fear that all will not be too rosy in the future. But for now they are off to the war "games" and there is no thought of war.