



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON✓  
OCT 5 1918

October 2, 1918.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
Minnesota Historical Society,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Buck:

Would you have any interest in the possibility of entering military service with the rank of captain for the purpose of general duty with this section, with special responsibility for work in agriculture and transportation as they have affected economic mobilization, and for the preparation of a guide to the war archives.

Very truly,

*Frederic L. Paxson*

Frederic L. Paxson,  
Major, U.S.A.,  
Chief, Economic Mobilization Section,  
Historical Branch.

io

October 5, 1918

My dear Paxson:-

Your letter of the 2d has just been received, and I can say at once that I am very much interested in the possibility of entering military service for the purpose indicated. A number of considerations have kept me out of very active war work heretofore, the principal one being the fact that I am too near sighted (without glasses) for regular service in the army.

Last year I wanted very much to offer my services to the Committee on Public Information or to the National Board for Historical Service, but with the Minnesota Historical Society in a state of transition, both as to organization and habitat, it seemed best for me to stay on the job here. Then too I had to consider my parents, who are almost wholly dependent on me for support.

The Historical Society is now in shape so that I could leave it without disastrous results and I suppose that my services at the University could be dispensed with. I am scheduled to teach a section of War Aims to the S. A. T. C. and the University has asked for my exemption from the draft on the ground of essential services. The president has announced that teaching in the University should be considered as war work and that no further leaves would be granted. Exceptions have been made, however, and as I am supposed to give only one-third time, it would probably be possible for me to get a release for what would seem to be more important service.

A more difficult obstacle is the financial one. The salary of a captain, I understand, is \$200.00 a month, which is \$50.00 less than I am receiving at present. I shouldn't hesitate a moment to make the sacrifice if I had only myself to consider, but I must make sure of course, that my parents are provided for in some way.

Can you give me any idea as to how long my services would be wanted and as to what if any would be the prospects of advancement?

Sincerely yours

Major Frederic L. Paxson

OCT 11 1918

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1918.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
Minnesota Historical Society,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 5, 1918 directed to Major Paxson has been handed to me and in reply I may say that an application from you for a commission as Captain, U.S.A., for duty in this Branch will receive immediate consideration at our hands.

It is impossible to make any specific statement about opportunities for promotion in this work, but there is no reason to suppose that the same rule which prevails throughout the service will in the long run prevail here and that capacity and performance will receive the usual awards in due course.

In addition to the salary of Captain, there would be, of course, the allowances in commutation of quarters, light, and heat which would amount to about \$40 per month.

\$50+

In case you are interested in this opportunity for duty with the Economic Mobilization Section of this Branch, will you not submit a report of medical examination which the medical officer at your University is hereby requested to make on A.G.O. blank #395, and also two letters of indorsement from reputable citizens, well acquainted with your work. Your formal application for a commission as Captain should be directed to The Adjutant General of the Army and enclosed to me. It should contain information upon the following points:

- a. Name in full.
- b. Address where you are to be notified of appointment and home address.
- c. Date and place of birth.
- d. If subject to the Selective Service Law,
  1. Result of classification showing class and division of class.
  2. Evidence as to whether or not you are in the current quota of your local board.
- e. Present occupation and remuneration; also former employment, education, including degrees, if any.
- f. If an officer of a State Military Organization, furnish necessary evidence that your resignation will be accepted by State Adjutant of the organization to which you belong, in the event of your appointment in the Federal Service.
- g. Have you ever been rejected for a commission in any branch of

the military service or have you another application  
for commission pending?

Very truly yours,

*C. W. Weeks*

C. W. WEEKS,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Historical Branch.

io

Telegram to  
Parson Oct. 11.

Letter from Colonel Weeks concerning  
commission received. ~~Would~~ Will apply  
if not necessary to resign position  
here and can get leaves. Letters  
from you to President Burton and  
Historical Society might help. How  
long would service probably be  
needed? How soon necessary to report?

Oct. 11 to you.

Telegram Parson suggest application  
Have been asked to apply for commission  
~~under as~~ ~~captaincy under~~ ~~Parson in~~  
Gen. Mobiliz. Section Historical Branch  
for work in agriculture ~~and~~ transportation  
and guide to war archives. Would  
like it if not ~~for~~ too long and  
can get leaves. Believe would ~~help~~  
~~increase my influence for~~ <sup>increase</sup> ~~good~~  
~~prestige~~ for historical society  
work. What do you <sup>advise</sup> ~~think~~? Letters  
~~from you~~ to Burton and society  
would help.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT 332 ROBERT STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

*RJA 740*

3 OCT 14 PM 4 13

A444CH 74 GOVT

WM WASHINGTON DC 425P 14

DR WOLON J BUCK

*787*

Telephone No.....

Telephoned to.....

Time... *12:40* .....

By..... To be.....

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY STPAUL MINN

ON RECEIPT OF APPLICATION MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND TESTIMONIAL A  
MEMORANDUM REQUESTING COMMISSION AS CAPTAIN FOR YOU WILL BE SENT  
FORWARD YOUR SERVICES WILL BE DESIRED PRESUMABLY FOR DURATION OF WAR  
NO OBJECTION TO YOUR ACCEPTING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM PRESENT  
EMPLOYERS YOUR SERVICES WOULD BE DESIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER  
ISSUANCE OF COMMISSION AM WRITING PRESIDENT BURTON AND HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

C. W. WEEKS COLONEL.

B OCT 14 PM 7 32

OCT 17 1918

WAR COLLEGE DIVISION

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

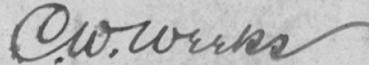
October 14, 1918.

Minnesota Historical Society,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sirs:

We are in correspondence with Dr. Solon J. Buck, in connection with a Captain's commission for service with the Historical Branch of the General Staff. When his formal application for this is received we shall send forward a memorandum requesting the issuance of this commission. In case Dr. Buck is commissioned, we should desire his services as soon as possible and for the probable duration of the war. There would be no objection to his receiving a leave of absence from you for the duration of his period of service in the Army.

Very respectfully,



C. W. WEEKS,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Historical Branch.

io

October 16, 1918

Colonel C. W. Weeks  
Chief Historical Branch  
War College Division  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Upon receipt yesterday morning of your telegram of October 14, I immediately took up the matter with the authorities of the Historical Society and the University, and received assurances from both institutions that a leave of absence would be granted.

I had already taken the medical examination the previous day, so that it was possible for me to mail to you last night my application directed to the adjutant general of the army, together with the letters and statements requested.

In case a definite statement as to the action of the district board on my classification in the draft is necessary, let me know and I will endeavor to secure immediate action in the matter.

Very truly yours

B/P

October 16, 1918

Major Frederic L. Paxson  
Chief, Economic Mobilization Section  
Historical Branch, War College Division  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

My dear Paxson:-

Colonel Weeks' telegram in reply to my telegram to you of October 11 was received yesterday morning.

I had already talked the matter over with the executive committee of the society and with Professor White who is in charge of the department at the University. It did not take long, therefore, to get assurances from both institutions that leave of absence would be granted. I had also secured the medical examination on the previous day, and had taken up the matter of securing a statement of my status in the draft.

Colonel Weeks' instructions were to include in my application a statement of my classification in the draft. The University had asked deferred classification in Class 3 K for me. As this falls within the jurisdiction of the district board, the local board had placed me temporarily in Class 1 A, and my questionnaire had been sent on to the district board, which has not acted upon it as yet. What I did, therefore, was to secure a statement of these facts from the local draft board and include it with the application. If it is necessary to have a statement as to the final action of the district board in the matter, let me know and it can doubtless then be procured.

At any rate, I am not included in the current quota of the local draft board and they have certified in their statement.

The application directed to the adjutant general of the army, together with the accompanying papers, was mailed to Colonel Weeks last night. The telegram from Colonel Weeks stated that my services would be desired as soon as possible after the issuance of the commission. I wonder if you can give me any idea as to when the commission is likely to be issued. Also would it be safe for me to assume that the matter is settled except for the formalities and to go ahead with my arrangements here before receiving the commission? If so, it would probably be possible for me

F. L. P. 10/16/18--3

to report sooner than otherwise. For example, it <sup>will</sup> be necessary for me to find a renter for the house which we are occupying, and make arrangements for my parents to spend the winter with relatives elsewhere.

I expect also to dispose of my automobile, if I can secure a reasonable price for it. I could not afford to maintain it in Washington, and it would not be wise to pay storage on it here. Moreover, I will need the money which it will bring to buy equipment and to pay traveling expenses for the family. I suppose that my own traveling expenses to Washington will be paid if I am commissioned, will they not?

If I could go ahead with these matters at once, I could probably get away somewhere about November 1 or very soon thereafter.

Sincerely yours

B/P

OCT 22 1918

WAR COLLEGE DIVISION

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 1918.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
Minnesota Historical Society,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Buck:

Under no circumstances should you cut loose from Minnesota until you have received a telegram bearing the signature of the Adjutant General of the Army announcing that you have been or will be commissioned, because until such action takes place, we have no absolute certainty as to final approval of our recommendations. It will be proper for you after receiving such an official telegram, to accept and to proceed as soon as possible.

According to my understanding, pay begins on the date of formal acceptance of the commission but no traveling allowance is made to cover expenses incident to reporting for duty in the first instance. There are, however, several days of grace during which the individual receives his pay, before he is due actually to report and in these days the expense of transportation is approximately covered by the accumulated pay.

Cordially yours,

*Frederic L. Paxson*

Frederic L. Paxson,  
Major, U.S.A.,  
Chief, Economic Mobilization Section,  
Historical Branch.

io

*Since writing above I have  
of a different procedure in  
obtaining your commission  
and will have fuller infor-  
mation soon on Monday. Shall  
be glad to have you  
F.L.P.*

C O P Y

October 19, 1918.

From: Director, War Plans Division, General Staff, Army War  
College, Washington, D.C.

To: Local Draft Board, 2nd District, Minneapolis, Minn.

Subject: Advanced classification of Dr. Selon Justus Buck.

Professor Selon Justus Buck of St. Paul, Minnesota, is an applicant for a commission for duty in this Division. It is requested that the Local Draft Board give him an advanced classification in order that he may complete his record to be submitted. The classification should be given directly to him to be returned to this office.

LYELL BROWN,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.

10

OCT 23 1918

WAR COLLEGE DIVISION

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

October 21, 1918.

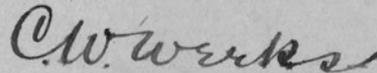
Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
Minnesota Historical Society,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Herewith you will find a blank form for individual induction and a copy of a request upon your Local Draft Board for advanced classification. In case you should be placed in Class 1-A, or in deferred classification on account of industry, occupation or employment, it will be necessary for you to be inducted before receiving your commission. Copy of a circular relating to personnel is enclosed for your information. Upon receipt of enclosed induction blank, you should secure your classification and return the blank to me, whereupon I will take steps for the authorization of your induction, and you will be suitably informed by your Local Draft Board, which will order you to Washington, providing transportation, etc., for the same.

As soon as your induction has been completed, you will have your Draft Board wire immediately to me and we shall start the special papers for your commission in order to reduce the delay in this connection.

Very truly yours,



C. W. WEEKS,  
Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, Historical Branch.

October 24, 1918

Colonel C. W. Weeks  
Chief Historical Branch  
War Plans Division  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Upon receipt of your letter of October 21, I took the request for advanced classification and the induction blank to my local draft board. There I was informed that my questionnaire was still in the hands of the district board, whereupon I consulted the district board and was informed that the case had been submitted to its "advisory board" from which it would probably take some time to secure a recommendation.

The clerk of the district board advised me, therefore, inasmuch as it made no difference in the procedure in my case whether I should be classified in one A or in three K, to withdraw the claim for deferred classification on account of industry, occupation, or employment, and accept classification in class one A. In order to facilitate matters, I followed this advice and was placed definitely in class one A.

The induction blank, with the desired data from the draft board entered thereon, and also a statement from the draft board certifying to this data, are enclosed herewith. ✓

If you can give me any indication as to how long it will probably be before I am called for induction, and also how soon thereafter I will be required to entrain for Washington, I would greatly appreciate it. There are many arrangements which I must make here before I leave, and some of these cannot be attended to until I know definitely that I am to leave and approximately when I am to leave. However much time may be allowed me after induction I shall, of course, take no more of it than is necessary, and shall arrange to get to Washington just as soon as possible. ✓

Very truly yours

B/P

NOV 9 1918

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL BRANCH, OPERATIONS DIVISION  
APPOINTMENT SUB-SECTION  
WASHINGTON.

November 6, 1918.

Date

From: Chief, Appointment Sub-Section.  
To: Mr. Solon Justus Buck, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
Subject: Induction of Applicant for Commission in the Army.

1. Orders have been requested for your induction, and are in course of issue. You should be directed, within a few days, to report to the Local Board at 2nd Div. 106 Folwell Hall, Univ. of Minn. Minneapolis. Pending such for entrainment to Camp Grant, Illinois. direction do not communicate with this office. Keep in close touch with the draft board above designated.

2. Upon your arrival at the above mentioned camp you will present this letter (in duplicate) to the Personnel Adjutant to whom you report, and request that this office be so advised by telegraph in the following form:

Davis, Room 595 State War and Navy Building,  
Washington, D.C.

Candidate Solon Justus Buck arrived Camp Grant  
today.

(Signed)

Commanding Officer.

3. For the information of the Commanding Officer the following is quoted from letter of the Director of Operations, General Staff, dated September 26, 1918.

"\*\*\*\*\* the man in question need not have issued to him enlisted men's clothing, equipment, etc., though he will draw the pay and allowances of a private during such period." (While awaiting commission).

4. Upon receipt of above -mentioned wire further steps will be taken by this office towards your appointment as an officer of the Army.

By direction of Chief, Personnel Branch, General Staff.

By Harry Davis  
Harry Davis, Major, General Staff,  
Chief, Appointment Sub-Section.

HCC/ML

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL BRANCH, OPERATIONS DIVISION  
APPOINTMENT SUB-SECTION  
WASHINGTON.

Original & Carbon sent you to:

Minnesota Historical Society, University of Minnesota,  
St. Paul, Minnesota, which should be presented to  
Commanding Officer designated therein.

November 6, 1918.

Date

From: Chief, Appointment Sub-Section.

To: Mr. Solon Justus Buck, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Subject: Induction of Applicant for Commission in the Army.

1. Orders have been requested for your induction, and are in course of issue. You should be directed, within a few days, to report to the Local Board at ~~2nd Division, 106 Felwell Hall, Univ. of Minn., Minneapolis.~~ ~~Camp Grant, Illinois~~ for entrainment to ~~Camp Grant, Illinois~~. Pending such direction do not communicate with this office. Keep in close touch with the draft board above designated.

2. Upon your arrival at the above mentioned camp you will present this letter (in duplicate) to the Personnel Adjutant to whom you report, and request that this office be so advised by telegraph in the following form:

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4. Upon receipt of above -mentioned wire further steps will be taken by this office towards your appointment as an officer of the Army.

By direction of Chief, Personnel Branch, General Staff,

HCC/ML

By \_\_\_\_\_

Harry Davis, Major, General Staff,  
Chief, Appointment Sub-Section.

*Serial 1919*  
WAR DEPARTMENT *Order 1471*  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

JGT-GT

September 26, 1918.

From: The Director of Operations.  
To: The Chief of All Staff Corps and Departments.  
Subject: Appointment of Officers from Civil Life.

*Flemming*

In connection with the memorandum from The Adjutant General's Office dated September 23, 1918, with reference to the appointment of officers from civil life the following procedure will be followed in disposing of suspended cases.

1. Qualified applicants over 46 years of age may be commissioned direct from civil life. Papers in such cases should be forwarded direct to The Adjutant General as heretofore.
2. Qualified applicants between the ages of 18 and 45, both inclusive, whose appointment was initiated and to whom the Government did obligate itself prior to August 12, 1918, may be commissioned direct from civil life. Papers in such cases should be forwarded direct to The Adjutant General with a statement as to the obligations of the Government.
3. Qualified applicants between the ages of 18 and 45, both inclusive, who have been placed in a deferred classification on grounds other than industry, occupation or employment, including agriculture, may be commissioned direct from civil life. Papers in such cases should be forwarded direct to The Adjutant General accompanied by evidence as to such deferred classification.
4. Qualified applicants between the ages of 18 and 45, both inclusive, placed in Class 1 meeting the physical requirement for limited or special military service only (included in what is known as Group (C) Medical Regulations, Form 65, or who would be placed in Class 1 for such special or limited military service except for industry, occupation or employment, including agriculture, may be commissioned direct from civil life. Papers in such cases should be forwarded direct to The Adjutant General accompanied by evidence as to such status.
5. Qualified applicants between the ages of 18 and 45, both inclusive, placed in class 1 for general military service or who would be placed in Class 1 for such general military service except for industry, occupation, or employment, including agriculture, must be first inducted into the service before a commission can be granted. Procedure as in 6 (b) below.
6. A qualified applicant who does not fall within the foregoing rules because he has not been finally classified or examined physically may have his classification or physical examination advanced upon presentation to his Local Board of a certificate from the Chief of a Corps or Department of the Army setting forth that he is a candidate for a commission. All such applicants should be furnished with such certificate and also with the usual form of induction Blank. They should be instructed to appear before their draft

boards for advance classification. There will be two methods of procedure thereafter:

(a) Those who after classification fall within the categories numbered 3 and 4 above, should be instructed to return statement from draft board showing classification and return the induction blank not filled out. The papers in such cases can then be forwarded to The Adjutant General direct in the usual manner.

(b) Those who after classification fall within category numbered 5 above must be first inducted into the service before a commission can be granted. They should be instructed to have their induction blanks filled out and returned. The Staff Corps or Department concerned should then have the applicant in question inducted in the usual manner and ordered to report to the nearest camp or station under its control, advising the commanding officer thereof that the man in question need not have issued to him enlisted men's clothing, equipment, etc., though he will be drawing the pay and allowance of a private during such period. As soon as notice of his induction is received his papers should be completed and submitted to The Commissioned Personnel Branch, Operations Division, with evidence of such induction, whereupon steps will be taken to issue him a commission with the least practicable delay.

7. In all cases coming under category (b) above each bundle of such recommendations will be accompanied by a list or abstract showing name, grade, age, education, qualifications and physical condition of applicants, their selective service classification and a brief statement as to why it is desirable to appoint them from civil life.

HENRY JERVEY,  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,  
Assistant to The Chief of Staff.  
By

Jas. G. Steese,  
Colonel, General Staff.

3

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT 332 ROBERT STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

1918 NOV 13 PM 1 01

A267NA 46 GOVT

WM WASHINGTON DC 1130A 13

DR SOLON J BICK

510

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ST PAUL MINN

WE ARE INFORMED THAT ISSUANCE OF NEWY COMMISSIONS HAS BEEN  
SUSPENDED AND ARE NOW MAKING INQUIRIES AS TO WHETHER THIS BRANCH WILL  
BE PERMITTED TO RECEIVE COMMISSIONS AS AN EXCEPTION TO GENERAL  
RULE

PAXSON MAJ US ARMY.

1919 NOV 13  
PM 1 00

November 14, 1918

Major Frederic L. Paxson  
Chief Economic Mobilization  
Historical Branch, War College Division  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Paxson:-

I want to thank you for your telegram of yesterday. I had anticipated something of this sort from the statements in the newspapers.

If a decision is finally reached that I am to be commissioned, I suppose that the procedure of induction as a private will now be dispensed with, will it not? I am rather sorry not to have the opportunity to spend some time at Camp Grant in the roll of a private, for I think it would have been an interesting experience.

I trust that you will let me know just as soon as there are any further developments in the situation in order that I may make my plans accordingly.

Sincerely yours

B/P

201 Buck, Solon Justus)

NOV 19 1918

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,  
WASHINGTON.

November 16, 1918.

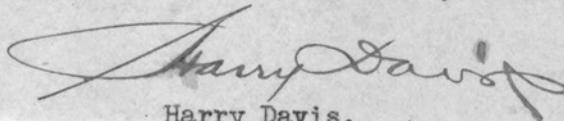
Mr. Solon Justus Buck,  
Minnesota Historical Society,  
University of Minnesota,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that applications of civilians for appointment in the United States Army are no longer being considered, and no further original appointments are to be made, the request made upon the Provost Marshal General on November 6, 1918 for your induction into the service, and entrainment to Camp Grant with a view to being commissioned, has been returned to this office without action.

You will, therefore, disregard the communication from this office of November 6th on the subject. Your draft status remains unchanged. All papers in your case will be retained on file in this office.

By Direction of Chief, Personnel Branch, General Staff:



Harry Davis,  
Major, General Staff  
Chief, Appointment Sub-Section.

HCC:ML

November 19, 1918

Major Frederic L. Paxson  
Chief Economic Mobilization Section  
Historical Branch, War College Division  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

My dear Paxson:-

I am in receipt this morning of a letter from Major Harry Davis, Chief Appointment Sub-Section of the General Staff, together with a carbon copy of the same which I am enclosing herewith. ✓

From this it would appear that there is no longer any prospect of my receiving the commission, but I want to be quite sure before going ahead definitely with other plans. I will appreciate it very much, therefore, if you will let me know as soon as possible whether or not you consider the matter settled.

Sincerely yours

B/P

NOV 25 1918

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

2

Nov. 21, 1918.

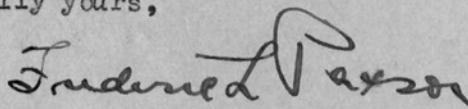
Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
Minnesota Historical Society,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Buck:

To the best of my knowledge and greatly to my regret, I fear that our hopes to get you with us are at an end. I do not see any prospect of getting commissions at this time for anybody, and much as I should desire to have you here I do not see any feasible way to bring it about. The signing of the Armistice hit me very heavily, since it cancelled the issuance of several other commissions upon which I had been working for several weeks and we expect to have to proceed now by means of transfers of officers who are already in the service and are able to do our work.

I am sorry the thing has blown up this way and am personally grateful to you for your willingness to cooperate in the work.

Cordially yours,



Frederic L. Paxson,  
Major, U.S.A.,  
Chief, Economic Mobilization Section,  
Historical Branch.

DEC 1 1918

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OPERATIONS DIVISION, GENERAL STAFF,  
PERSONNEL BRANCH,  
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT SECTION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,  
St. Paul,  
Minn.

Dec. 16, 1918.

Sir:

Recommendation that you be commissioned Capt. in the U. S. A., At. large was in this office at the time of cessation of hostilities. The granting of commissions ceased at that time, making your appointment, as recommended, impossible.

Your desire to serve is fully appreciated, and from the records it appears that you are legally eligible for appointment in the Officers' Reserve Corps.

It is impossible at this time to commission you in the Officers' Reserve Corps in a branch corresponding to that for which formerly recommended. Such branch of the Officers' Reserve Corps does not exist, and any appointment made must be in one of the existing branches of the Officers' Reserve Corps, which are as follows:

- (1) Adjutant General's Reserve Corps
- (2) Inspector General's Reserve Corps
- (3) Judge Advocate General's Reserve Corps
- (4) Quartermaster Reserve Corps
- (5) Medical Department Reserve Corps
  - (a) Medical Reserve Corps
  - (b) Dental Reserve Corps
  - (c) Veterinary Reserve Corps
- (6) Engineer Reserve Corps
- (7) Ordnance Reserve Corps
- (8) Signal Reserve Corps
  - (a) Aviation Section
- (9) Cavalry Reserve Corps
- (10) Field Artillery Reserve Corps
- (11) Coast Artillery Reserve Corps
- (12) Infantry Reserve Corps

If you desire appointment in the Officers' Reserve Corps, please fill out the inclosed application blank and mail direct, as indicated thereon. Further examination will be unnecessary and appointment will be made provided vacancies exist when your application is received, and the office that previously recommended you concurs.

By direction of the Chief, Personnel Branch:

*Jay L. Benedict*  
Jay L. Benedict,  
Lieutenant Colonel,  
General Staff.

Inclosures.

January 11, 1919

Lieutenant Colonel Jay L. Benedict  
Personnel Branch  
Office of Procurement Section  
Operations Division, General Staff  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Some time ago I received from you a form letter (Form 153 CPB-GS) dated December 16, 1918, stating that I had been recommended for a commission as captain in the U. S. A., At large, but that the commission was not granted because of the cessation of hostilities, informing me that I was legally eligible for appointment in the Officers' Reserve Corps, and requesting me, if I desired such appointment, to fill out the enclosed application blank.

In view of the fact that I did not feel qualified for service in any of the existing branches of the Officers' Reserve Corps, I replied to the effect that I did not desire such appointment. Since then I have received a letter from Major Frederic L. Paxson, Chief, Economic Mobilization Section, Historical Branch, General Staff, who was instrumental in securing the recommendation for a commission for me and in whose section I expected to serve, in which letter he states that there is a movement on foot to organize a branch of the Officers' Reserve Corps composed of men who should be available for such special services. Major Paxson suggested, therefore, that I withhold my declination of an appointment in the Officers' Reserve Corps for the time being.

In view of the fact that this declination had already been transmitted to you, it was impossible for me to follow his suggestion. If it is not too late now, I should like to be permitted to withdraw the declination and to have the opportunity to apply for a commission in the Officers' Reserve Corps in case the movement referred to by Major Paxson should materialize.

Very truly yours

B/P

January 11, 1919

Lieutenant Colonel Jay L. Benedict  
Personnel Branch  
Office of Procurement Section  
Operations Division, General Staff  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

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B/P

JAN 18 1919

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OPERATIONS DIVISION, GENERAL STAFF,  
PERSONNEL BRANCH,  
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT SECTION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 14, 1919.

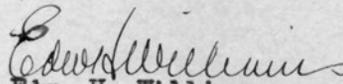
Mr. Solon J. Buck,  
Supt. Minnesota Historical Society,  
Saint Paul, Minn.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of January 11, you are informed that if a section of the Officers' Reserve Corps is organized, to appointment in which men of your special qualifications will be eligible, the fact of your declination of appointment at large will not prejudice your case.

If this new section should be organized the Historical Branch, General Staff, will be called upon to recommend such names as may be available, in which case it appears that no doubt your name will be included.

Respectfully,



Edw. H. Williams  
Lieut. Col., General Staff.