

JUL 16 1920

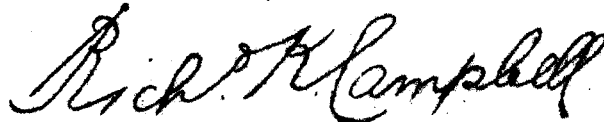
Dr. Oswald T. Avery,
Rockefeller Institute,
66th St., and Avenue A,
New York, N.Y.

MS. DIV.
AC. NO. 70-128

Dear Sir:

1. Your Government takes great pleasure in placing in your hands as an honorably discharged citizen soldier your certificate of naturalization as an American citizen. It welcomes you into the citizenship of the Nation. Because you patriotically responded to the call to arms when the services of millions of men were needed to safeguard Democracy, the Congress arranged through the courts and the Bureau of Naturalization to have immediately granted to you the highest privilege that any government can confer upon men, American citizenship. No declaration of intention ("first citizenship paper") was required of you.
2. If you had not been in the military service, a first paper and a wait of over two years would have been required before you could have become a citizen. During this time, the public-school classes in English and citizenship would have been open to you to learn to speak, read, and write our language and to secure a better understanding of the principles of the Constitution of the United States to which you have sworn you are attached. Because of your loyalty to our Government you joined the Army and were denied this opportunity of going to the public schools.
3. Many of our soldiers did not have a chance to secure a good education before entering the Army. Your Government, through the Bureau of Naturalization, now desires to extend to you a most cordial invitation to join the public-school classes now being held throughout the United States, if you are in need of instruction in these matters, and knows that you will regard this as a duty you owe to your country just as you did your entrance into the Army. The better educated you become, the more useful citizen you will be.
4. Please show this letter to the teacher in your nearest public school building and when you have joined a class, write to the Bureau that you have done so as it is interested in your welfare and success.

Sincerely yours,



Commissioner of Naturalization.