

Oct. 7, 1942

13:00

Dear Chip:

They've really been keeping us busy here. We start school at 7:53 + end up at 1:00 with one hour off for lunch. That means 8 hours of lectures - 1 of these hours being drill. At the end of a day you know you've been to school. In addition to this we are also given ~~homework~~ work to do almost every night which takes up at least 1 hour of time. It is a physical impossibility to absorb all that is thrown at us, but the instructors realize this + apparently are merely making sure that we are well exposed to the material, get a smattering of knowledge so that we'll be able to understand what we do after we leave here, + then expect us to continue in our quest for army knowledge after we leave here.

Camp Grant is really a fine camp from a comparative view point. I understand that it is one of the best camps in the country with respect to accommodations. I've really enjoyed myself + met some swell fellows - 1 of them knew you - a Kentuckian who attended Med College at U.C. Gardner by name. He graduated in 1939.

Pete Scheinerson, the druggist from the Jewish Hosp., came into camp to-day as a Capt in the MAC. Otherwise I haven't met a soul that I knew from Cinicy.

They have been taking the MC's from here in large numbers + I don't believe I'll be here long enough to finish school - which would mean two + a half more weeks. Practically no MC's who come here last out the full 4 weeks. The same is true of dentists, but the MAC's are being kept here. ~~The~~ It has been told us that in time the

MC's will hold all the posts in camp except for 1 MC per Battalion, the MC's being shifted out to the various Medical Services where needed. To day a # of vets were given notice to be on the alert for foreign service. Some of them have been in the army only 5 weeks.

1800 o'clock

We have just returned from a map problem in trucks. I don't know whether you have been studying maps or not but we get quite an intensive course in it. I'm getting so that I understand it pretty well. To-day, because of detours, we got lost & traveled 28 miles instead of 13 & came in 40 minutes late. It was an awful lot of fun.

Soph wrote me that Helen was coming up to find a place to live in if possible. In your present set up I think that is the only solution to come to because you never know how soon you'll be sent across. I plan to have Ros & the Kids come to my next post if at all practical.

Everything has been swell here. I think I've adjusted without any particular difficulty & except for the occasional blues due to being separated from Ros & the Kids I'm rather enjoying myself. I've had no difficulty with anyone simply because I'm keeping my mouth shut & following all orders.

My first week here was interesting. I spent it with the company because school was too crowded to take in new men. We marched all over the place & even took an 8 mile hike. I broke my glasses putting on a gas mask on this hike. I had received no instruction & did not know that the glasses must be removed before putting on the mask. It was extremely interesting



to see how they train these men. As you probably know this entire camp is a medical training camp & the enlisted men are given lectures in anatomy, physiology, materia medica, first aid (really first treatment now). Litter bearing, retrieving wounded men under fire, setting up all types of medical stations, etc. They get an intensive 8 or 10 weeks course & they do learn a fair amount in that time. I supervised the bandaging along with several dentists & the instructors, & it was a lot of fun. I also helped 1 of the instructors prepare his materia medica lectures & would have started lecturing if I did not have to return to school. All in all I really enjoyed my weeks there.

Have you had any experience in the gas chamber yet? It will give you a wholesome respect for gas, if not a dread, & it will at the same time give you an awful lot of faith in the gas mask. It's an experience I'll never forget.

The instructors in our school are swell fellows except for one pompous ass. He worked his way up from the ranks & just received his 1st Lieutenancy & apparently resents the ease with which the class has obtained ranking as commissioned officers. He is the one who works our tails off in class & with work to do at night, but that's O.K. because we're learning his subject because of it.

The messes here are fine & the officer's mess is just next to our quarters so that it is a nice set up for us.

In fact everything here has been O.K.

Well I've got to start in studying. Let me hear from you. Loads of luck, Walter