

S atl Oct. 16, 1943

I'm sorry that I have not had the opportunity to write you before this but things have really been happening to me. Since I last wrote you, I have changed my location from the west coast to the east coast as you will probably note on my return address. I'd like to tell you in sequence just what has happened to me.

I don't remember what I wrote you in my last letter, so some of this may be repeated news. Everything had been running smoothly, i.e. as smoothly as it runs in the 85th Div. when one day while we were out in the field preparing to run a problem involving the ~~entire~~ entire division, we suddenly received orders to return to camp. No one had any idea as to the reason for this, but we knew it was important for they would never have moved an entire division into the field and then back without performing any problem at all, since this is an expensive procedure. Of course, rumors were rife, but there was no definite information. We were restricted to the area and I was unable to get in touch with Ros to let her know what was happening, not that I could have given her any definite information. Finally I got word to her thru another officer's wife (they had a phone whereas we didn't). We learned that the first part of our maneuvers were called off and we had to stay in camp and check all of our equipment preparatory to a movement overseas. The news came down to us in dribbles summing up to maneuvers being called off completely and our moving to another camp somewhere to the east. My worries then redoubled as to how I was to get Ros and the kids back across the country. A most complicated situation existed, which is too long to try to write you in any detail. It required the shifting of several officers to new positions depending on whether one of the officers was to receive a limited duty status and leave our unit. If he received this before we left our California camp, I would become a company commander and would have to accompany our unit on the train across the country. However, a political situation arose, and since these changes couldn't be affected without involving one of those favored by the powers that be in our medical battalion, it was decided that even if this officer was shifted, they would not make any of the changes until we reached our new post. Thus, thru no influence on my part, for I am totally uninfluential in the politics of our battalion, I was fortunate to get permission to travel by private conveyance and take Ros and the kids with me.

We left Sunday, Oct. 3, and were due to arrive at Fort Dix on Friday Oct. 15. Since this gave me plenty of time to travel, I decided to see all the members of the family. Unfortunately, because you were situated far too distant from the general route across the country, and because I wasn't sure that I would have enough gas if I made the trip to Corpus Cristi, I decided against it. Gosh I would have loved to get down to see you and Evy, because I'm pretty sure I'll have to go over before I get to see you, and it's very likely that you may have to go before you can get another furlough so that it may be the last opportunity we will have to see each other until this goddam situation is over. However, as you well know it is impossible to dictate over the situations which we meet in the army forces, and we just have to make the best of them. We got to visit Louise and David, and saw their new baby the very day that they came home from the hospital. Beth is a cuter baby than Julie was. Julie is much nicer looking than she was when younger, and has a nice personality. Louise looks swell, and is very little heavier than she was before she became pregnant. David is getting ready to check the proofs on his book which is to be printed and come on the market this December. He isn't too pleased with his job, but feels that there are so many places worse than his that he is not kicking.

Ben and Jinn are both swell and Stevie is a very unusual child. I'm sure he is as smart as any kid I have ever seen. However he is decidedly jealous of Nancy, who is quite a darling, and steps on her and hits her at almost every opportunity. Ben is still trying to get overseas duty. I think that he is nuts because he can't do the country nearly as much good overseas as he can in the hospital. His training is far too valuable to waste in an overseas unit.

Chip has the ideal set up at Battle Creek. That hospital defies description. It's glorious both from a physical set up and also from a medical scientific set up. I certainly hope he gets to stay on there until the war's end. ~~Janie~~ ^{Janie} is quite a problem to both of her parents, and they are both worried because they cannot control her. She has a chronic hoarseness that Chip feels requires investigation, but she screamed and raised such hell the last time he had her examined by an orthopedist that he hesitates bringing her back to the hospital. Janie is a much nicer looking girl than she was, and is very sweet, but a little

slow in walking.

Cincy is the same, with Roslyn ready to pop at any time.

You'll get the rest of the story in the family letter which I hope to write Monday or Tuesday. I felt that I owe you a personal letter particularly since I didn't get to see you personally. I'll get to tell you all about my trip in the family letter.

For christ's sake tell me something about yourself in the next letter. Not fishing, boating, sunsets, etc., or should I say in addition to these; but about what you are actually doing in a military sense. You needn't give away any secrets about radar. Specifically -

1. What type work are you now doing?
2. How about the OCS situation?
3. Are you flying in a plane?
4. What's the overseas situation with you?
5. Give, brother, give.

Love,
Walter.

Elaine's regards.