

Pvt. W.H. Bloomingburg (33, 639, 693)
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O'Reilly General Hospital
Springfield, Mo.

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Oct 17 letter Miss Sallie Loving
5817 – N. Washington Blvd.
Arlington, Va.

Sun. Afternoon

Dear Sallie,

I'm almost too restless to sit and write but it's a case of now or never. We got your letter and I had to pay 4¢ for it. The next time I see you either I get my 4¢ or else you get a tanning. (I guess you know what a tanning is – in other words, I'll turn you across my knee etc. etc.) I guess it was the thick paper, maybe the gum caused it, but it was too heavy. We really appreciated it though. I guess it's the first time we've heard from you since we've been in the army. That's nearly 3 ½ months. It hasn't seemed so long, though.

Too much has happened to go into detail so I'll just hit the high spots. We went to Camp Grant, Ill. for our basic training. It's a Medical Corps Replacement Center. We were there 9 weeks. We had 3 more weeks of basic coming up when we were shipped from there. While at Grant we lived in tents. I like tents okay but we didn't have room to put anything. It was cold up there, specially at night. We used to freeze at night when we bivouaced out but I'm glad we took basic up that way rather than at Camp Barkeley Tex. I'd like to go to Tex. and I like the south better than the north but when you've got to be out on marches and crawling through fields you kind of appreciate a little cool weather and no chiggers. That's what I liked about.

The Med. Corps is so complicated that I won't try to tell you how it works, mainly because I can't figure it out myself. There are medical men attached to every outfit, from the infantry to the Air Corps. When you finish basic you will be assigned to an outfit or else go to a hospital. Also they have 11 technician schools over the country, usually at General Hospitals. They have X-Ray, Laboratory, Surgical and Medical Tech. We had asked to go to a tech school, that's why we didn't finish basic. Five from our company were shipped here together. We were pretty sure we were going to a tech school but had no idea where. On a Monday we handed in our equipment that we received at Grant so we knew we were going to leave. Joe was supposed to get married that Thur. & he & his wife were going to stop by to see us the next week-end on their way to Mo., her home. We called them that night and told them not to come by. We didn't

ship until Thur. morning. The lieutenant in charge of us told us just before we got on the train where we were going. I didn't know there was a General Hosp. here. There is one in Denver and one in San Francisco (Monday) and of course Walter Reed in Washington. The hospital here is only 2 yrs. Old. Army hospitals are usually made up of a lot of frame building, each ward being a separate building. This hospital has 2000 beds and really covers a lot of ground. The school part is all in the north end of the grounds. There are several hundred men altogether in school here.

The Med. Tech. course only lasts 2 months. We have classes in Nursing (taught by a (good-looking) nurse), Anatomy & Physiology, Emergency Medical Treatment, Materia Medica, Hygiene & Prevention of Disease, & Ward Management. All of our teachers expect the nurse are doctors. The first and last subjects are put in because a lot of us who are unattached may go to hospitals when we leave here. We've had some of this in basic training. The courses are good, the food is good, and I like Mo. so I'm afraid these 2 months will go pretty fast. We've had a lot of studying to do the last 2 weeks, and will have for 2 more weeks, then things will kind of slack up. We'll start in on practical application. 2 weeks we'll be in the hospital. I'm looking forward to that because they say that if you get a good ward its really interesting. Most of the patients are from overseas.

I said that Joe & Opal didn't get to see us at Grant but since we went to Mo. too, they were only about 115 miles from us. As soon as we got their address we wrote them so last week-end Joe got to come over and stayed Sat. night and Sun. until 5.

Wayne and I were talking yesterday afternoon and he said, "I'd like to be able to take a roll of our class and see just where all they are." Other than Margaret we haven't heard from any of them. You said you were going to send us some addresses but there weren't any in the letter. I could add another name to the list we made and call you "Absent-minded Sallie". I guess you'll be absent-minded sure enough before this year is over. I hate to see you get stuck with a new class but after you get used to them you'll like them too. It's the thought of it that hurts I guess. It seems that the [illegible] get larger every time though.

The nurse that we have looks a little like Nibbie and talks exactly like her. She has a complexion just like Nibbie too.

Its nearly time to eat breakfast so I've got to quit and wash up. They get us up at 5, even though classes don't start until 8.

Let's try to have a little more frequent correspondence from now on. Once every 3 months isn't enough.

Love,

Wendell