

April 1, 1943



KEEP 'EM FLYING

Dearest Fletch,

Well, I've been here 24 hrs. and already it's a long story. We may as well start at the beginning as there seems to be no likelihood of getting to an end.

The night I arrived here (about 1 mo. ago) I reported in to the O.D. who found me a temporary room. I ate at the Officer's Club as mess closes at 6⁰⁰ PM. Spent the evening nursing my feet + reading.

Then today began. We eat breakfast about 7¹⁵. Then began

(2) a long round of reporting here, reporting there, signing this, getting fingerprints taken, etc - etc.

I walked about 10 miles from one corner of the woods to another. Even had my blood typed and got my first injection.

Accomplished the following things of particular + direct interest to you.

① Am having my pay check sent to the Brookline Trust Co. all of it goes there. I will have to draw checks here for things + money. Therefore please send me my Brookline Trust Co check book.

③ ① (cont.)

My pay amounts to $283^{\underline{67}}$
a month. I should get a small
check for March (I served 2 days in
March). When my April check
comes in at the end of the month
it should contain the following:

- a) $283^{\underline{67}}$ - pay
- b) $250^{\underline{00}}$ - uniform allowance.
- c) ? - travel allowance.

For purposes of accounting on your
part I suggest the following:

a) I had $44^{\underline{15}}$ cash when I
left Boston.

b) Start an account in the
book called Henry Swan - army
expenses. ~~Put~~ Put in that account
all the checks which I make out
and which you will receive back
from the bank at the end of each
month. I will keep (I will try anyway)
an itemized account) but you write

have anything but the lump sum.

c) The only exception to this will be any big checks I may write for specific things (i.e. - clothes & equipment, food, etc.) For the first one of these, please note a check for 24⁶⁰ made out to Post-Exchange - spent for uniforms equipment).

d) While I am thinking along these lines:

① Please let me know for a while when ^{pay} checks come, in what amount, + if everything is going okay as regards their deposit & correct credit etc.

② When the time comes for you to move to Leewards, or wherever (+ move of that sum) we must arrange a new bank account there (joint) so I can arrange a change of arrangements re pay.



KEEP 'EM FLYING

II. I find that I am not yet in the 4th auxiliary but am in the med. Replacement Pool, "pending further orders".

However, my orders here read "this officer is to be trained for the 4th Auxiliary Group". In other words, my present stay is a sort of basic training period of unknown length, following which, unless some hitch or slip-up occurs, I will be assigned to the 4th surgical. Don is in precisely the same boat. Benjie, however, is assigned directly to the 4th Auxil.

Unless some cataclysmic
mix-up occurs and I'm + 2 get
sent to Peoria by mistake, there
seems to be considerable advantage
to our set-up as contracted to
Bevier's. The Lawson General is
a big general Hospital; with it
is associated a Technicians
Training School, the 4th Auxiliary,
and a Replacement Pool. The other
words, 4 different groups of
army officers are here:

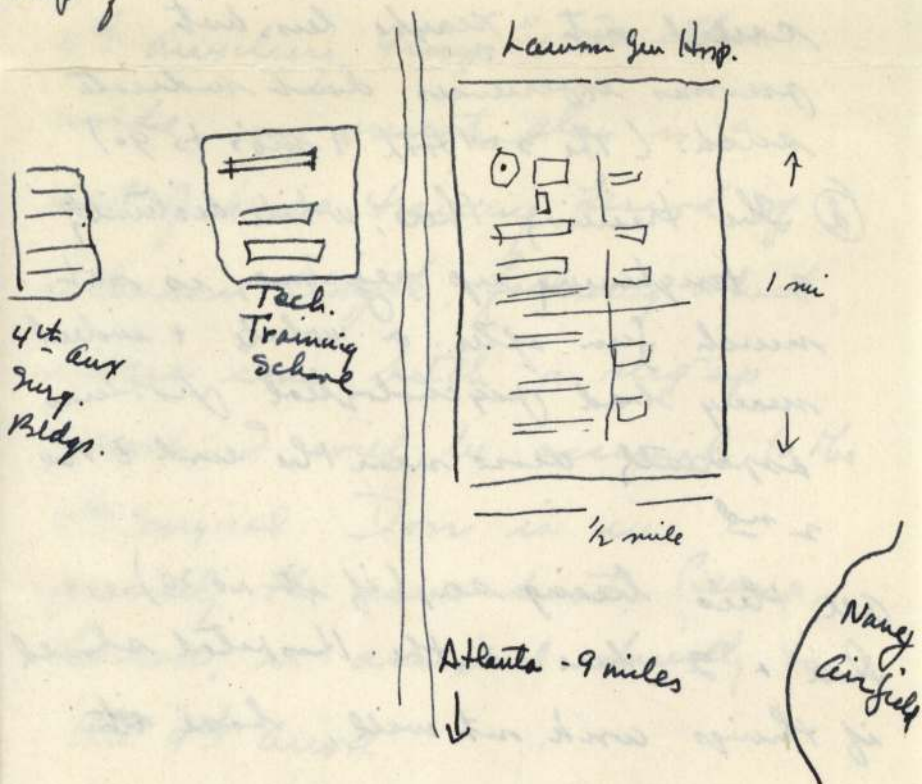
① Staff of the Hospital - more or less
permanent

② Staff of the Training School - ditto

③ M.R.P. - highly fluctuating
personnel - come + go. But while
here, assigned to ward work,
assisting at operations (etc etc. -
i.e. working with patients)

④ 4th Auxiliary - quarters in "Little Siberia" at some distance from General Hospital Bldgs - spend time drilling, fatigue duty, first aid training + many other pursuits - Have nothing to do with Patients. Their routine entirely different + unassociated with the Hosp. routine.

Map of LGH -



The following facts about the
4th ans seem pertinent.

- ① It has to date only about 35 officers - it needs 130; 100 enlisted men - needs 200; no nurses - needs 75.
- ② It has only been going about 1 mo - no equipment yet, etc.
- ③ It will probably take 4 or 5 more months at least before it is called out. Maybe less, but previous experiences don't indicate such. (The 2nd took 9 mo's to go)
- ④ The training there, while distinctly a toughening up régime, is not much fun after a while & indeed many had psychological problems apparently arose near the end of the 2nd

all this being so, (if it is so)

Don & I here at the Hospital should if things work out well, have ~~the~~

3



KEEP 'EM FLYING

II (cont)

probably got a good thing, providing no slip-up occurs in our being transferred to the 4th later on. We will have 4-6- or 8 weeks of hospital work, then roughly a similar amount of the real work-out ^{with the 4th}, then off we go. Let's hope it works out that way. If it does, it offers the possibility of your coming down here in a while anyway this summer.

Various odd items:

A. The food here is definitely excellent, + costs me \$1.05[#] a day.

Breakfast today: orange juice, grapefruit, cakes, bacon, 1 egg - coffee.

Lunch: Roast beef, lima beans, spinach,

fruits salad, milk, hot rolls, plenty of butter
etc etc. If you think I'm going to
lose wt. while I'm here you're crazy.
Undoubtedly will do so later on in the
4th.

B. My shins will be alright. Feet as a
whole no longer hurt, but have
certain areas where blisters are, etc.
These will toughen up.

C. Weather excellent: warm
during day - sunny & lovely.
Cool at night.

D. Allentown is a hot-bed of beautiful
women, the boys all say. They should
know - apparently everybody from
the hospital goes in almost every day.

E. I am assigned to a ward
working under a Major Pratt. It is
the officer's ward. My functions

are not at all clear to me yet
but seem to be chiefly learning
how to fill out all the proper
forms in triplicate. None of
that soon. Working hours:
Am 8³⁰ - 12¹⁵; ^{PM} 1³⁰ - 4⁰⁰ daily.

And, now to bed. If tomorrow
is anything like today, I think I
shall find a pair of roller skates.

It would save my writing
area considerably if you would
forward parts 2 + 3 of this letter
to Mom + Pop so they can
know about the set-ups.

Lots of love, darling.

H

P.S. Lots of love to you too, Mom + Pop.