

October 8, 1945

Dear General Rankin,

By now you are undoubtedly enjoying the fruits of victory and of a tremendous job well done. Although we here are exceedingly happy for you, your absence is deeply felt and your inimitable personality sorely missed. A short while before you left I recall your saying that the SGO had died a natural death. With your departure I can assure you the spirit veritably passed from the body. Very few people here seem interested in a burial, however, so life at the office goes on with a character now so dull and lustless that I feel certain it is "unprecedented" in the annals of the maritime building if not the SGO.

General Rankin, I want you to know what an honor it has been to have served a tour of duty in your office. Despite the fact that this assignment removed me for over two years from patients and the operating room I feel that it has afforded me one of the greatest privileges I've ever known, namely, that of cultivating your highly valued friendship. Moreover the opportunity of deservingly you apply an inexhaustible supply of straight thinking to the surgical problems of this war