

**PERCY JONES GENERAL HOSPITAL  
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN**

NTK/na

December 18, 1942

Brigadier General Fred Rankin,  
Office of the Surgeon General, S.O.S.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Fred:

Congratulations! I saw in the Register the other day that you had received your star. Please allow me to congratulate you. I think this is fine business!

We are still in the throes of conversion here. We had hoped it would be finished by the 15th of December but as it is now I am in hopes that we can get the contractors out by the end of the month and take some patients here early in January.

Tell Lull that we have at last gotten the flag-pole up and it is ten feet longer than the one we were talking about when he was here. We paid a little extra money and traded in the old one for a new one which is now erected. I think we will delay our opening until our conversion is completed and we have our 1500 bed unit completed.

A Merry Christmas to you and may the New Year bring us victory and get us out of the war!

Sincerely yours



NORMAN T. KIRK  
Colonel, M. C.