

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL

CORONA, CALIFORNIA

January 21, 1943

Dear Fred:

I have intended writing you for two or three weeks, to congratulate you on your promotion to Brigadier General in the Medical Corps of the Army of the United States. I know how proud and happy you were to receive the honor. I have heard on many occasions of the splendid work that you have done in assisting the Surgeon General to organize the Medical Department of the Army and this, as well as other reasons, merited your promotion.

The Medical Department of the Navy has been equally thoughtful and generous in its promotions to Medical Reserve Officers. I have been out here on active duty since the 1st of July. At the present time our hospital has about the same number of occupied beds as the Colonial but by mid-May our new wards, which are permanently constructed, will give us bed space three times this number. In addition there will be completed at the same time, a large pavillion type of hospital for the treatment of tuberculous patients.

I came out as Chief of Surgery which, I am happy to say, I am able to continue even though a month and a half after I arrived I was made Executive Officer, which is quite a ^{difficult} job for a Reserve Medical Officer in that it requires a great deal of time keeping up on the regulations of the Medical Department and the Bureau of Navigation rulings.

Phoebe and our youngest daughter Caroline, and I are renting a small house in town, as we have no officers' quarters on the compound. The duty is interesting and I have had a lot of fun but made lots of mistakes. Phoebe joins me in sending our greetings and best wishes to you and Edith.

Sincerely yours,



WALTMAN WALTERS
CAPTAIN, (MC) USNR

Brigadier General Fred Rankin,
Surgeon's Office, U.S. Army,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.