

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SAINT LOUIS

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
BARNES HOSPITAL
600 SOUTH KINGSHIGHWAY

December 28, 1942

Dear Fred:

I am writing, first of all, to congratulate you upon your promotion into the exalted group of Generals. I think it is swell and very well deserved. I was very happy when I heard about it. I tried to see you in Washington when I was there about a week ago, but you were out of town.

Speaking of promotions, isn't anything going to be done for Blades. I called him on the telephone to ask him if he was a Major and he told me, "Not yet". I was hoping that at least he would get the promotion as a Christmas present. I know you are doing everything you can and I don't want to be a nuisance about it. I should like to know, however, what is holding up the promotion. It seems to me that he has received rather shabby treatment on that score. He has ^{tried} ~~been trying~~ to get into the Army for ~~about a year~~ ^{several months before he did get in.} He actually has been on active service for eight months. He is teaching Majors and Lieutenant Colonels in thoracic surgery. It seems to me, therefore, that he is certainly entitled to a promotion. I feel doubly strong about it right now, because the group of forty Army Officers who were sent here for special instruction in surgery has just left. When I saw the number of gold and silver maple leaves on the shoulders of men who had nothing at all on the ball compared with what Blades has, it made me feel still more strongly that some injustice has been done him.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year,

Cordially yours,

Evarts
EVARTS A. GRAHAM.

Brigadier General Fred W. Rankin
Office of the Surgeon General
U. S. Army
1818 H Street
Washington, D. C.

*Blades got his promotion today
12/30/42*