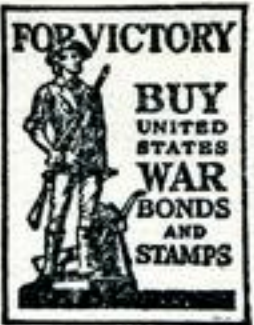


IN REPLY REFER TO SPMCR

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



11 October 1945.

Brigadier General Fred W. Rankin, M.C.,
 Cave Hill Farm,
 Harrodsburg Pike,
 Lexington, Ky.

Dear General Rankin:

I have intended writing you for several days but an acute coryza forced me to postpone it.

Before giving you some report of the office activities I would like to tell you briefly of the profound emotional effect your departure had upon all of us here in your office. I don't want to seem maudlin and yet in trying to express both my personal feelings and those of the others who were so closely associated with you I find that I begin to border on that state. As you know, I am not usually at a loss to express my thoughts (at least in writing) but I find that on this occasion I am encountering great difficulty. Your departure left in its wake the emotional turmoil which would inevitably result from the great loyalty, sincere devotion and deep love that you inspired in all of us here (and which I would like to add personally was increased with time) during the period we were privileged to work with you. I would like for you to accept as a tribute to what we consider your greatness of character and intellectual capacity the lasting impression you have made both in our minds and in our hearts. In our minds, the firm knowledge of the magnitude of your contributions to this war and their far-reaching significance in American surgery. In our hearts, the undying love and loyal devotion of a magnificent character.

And now to give you as concisely as I can some of the major activities that have taken place since you left the office. Glen and Barnes are devoting more and more of their time to the history and are apparently making real progress. Glen has proposed a new idea concerned with the management of post-traumatic epileptics and the plan, which Eli is going to implement, is that all these cases will be sent to Cushing where Earl Walker and his co-workers will treat them.

Lloyd Mousel is now in the office and has started working on his part of the history. Ralph Tovell has completed about all of his work that he can do here and will be separated on the 15th. Harry Beecher has already gone home. Incidentally, Lloyd has asked me about what can be done on his promotion and, frankly, the prospects do not seem too good. It seems a pity, particularly since other anesthetists like Bishop who have not contributed as much have received their Lieutenant Colonelcy. This is just another example of typical Army practice, the most humiliating feature of which is that it cannot be explained to one's civilian colleagues and friends.