Dr. Slobodan: Atkinson told me.
What has happened to the first reports?
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd:

Activities to-day consisted principally of lectures. Major Swick spoke on "Traumatic Injury of the Genito-Urinary Tract", Major Fenner on "Dysentery", and Major Bassen on "Diseases and Injuries of the Eye". Major Tuchman reviewed "The Functions of the Hospital Inspector".

Heated discussion accompanied Major Swick's lecture, and, while the Major countered questions from all sides, a voice from the rear cried out "Don't let them push you around Joe".

Dart games were contributed to the Officer's recreation facilities by the American Red Cross. The Dental officers have become so proficient that Colonel Lande has suggested that they be equipped with darts when they are Officer of the Guard.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th:

The final drill session of our basic training program was held this morning. At the conclusion of the drill Captain Horn assumed command of the platoon and led them in review before Lt. Ballard.

Lectures were given by Captain Horn on "Rickettsial Diseases", by Lt. Polkinghorn on "Personnel", and Lt. Ballard on "Promotions and Demotions".

 Pvt. Victor Rogin reported for duty this morning, the first enlisted man to be assigned to our unit by his own request. Pvt. Rogin was previously employed in the Pharmacy of Mount Sinai Hospital where his father is in charge of the pharmacy.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th:

As a culmination of the physical training program, and on the last official day of basic training, an all-day 15 mile hike was held. Full equipment was carried by officers and nurses, consisting of gas mask, canteen, first aid kit, musette bag, and mess kits. Leggings were worn by the officers. Eight and one-half miles were covered in the morning, and at about 11:30 A.M. we reached an area previously prepared for serving mess. This was the first opportunity afforded for the use of our mess equipment and we all lined up enthusiastically for "chow". A rest period followed mass and then we were off again on the homeward trek of six and one-half miles. Only a few officers and nurses were forced out of the line of march before completion of the 15 mile goal because of blisters and allied minor difficulties. About 300 yards from the camp gates Major Rick organized a contingent of about twenty to complete the hike on "the double". Captain Cohen and Miss Minacavage led all the rest across the finish line.

En route, Major Ginsburg provided amusement with a presentation of his classification of the varied types of drillers and hikers. Foremost in his classification is the "bestific" variety. This type marches forward ahead of all the rest at the apex of a
triangle - chin set forward, chest exposed to the elements, breasting enemy fire and oblivious of his environment and all those surrounding him. This was inspired by the long, lanky, arrhythmic pace which Captain Jack Levy was setting at the head of the officer's platoon.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th:

Three lectures were arranged for the day to complete the schedule of the professional course. These were given by Lt. Weissberg on "Blast Injuries," by Lt. Wasserman on "Serum Albumen as a Blood Substitute," and by Captain Allen on "Ear, Nose and Throat Injuries." A volleyball game was played in the afternoon.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th:

Inspection and Conferences of the Medical and Surgical services occupied the morning. Our duties and assignments at the Station Hospital, where we are to continue our training, were under discussion.

Great preparations were under way all afternoon for the dance this evening at the Nurses' Recreation Hall in celebration of the completion of basic training. A committee under the chairmanship of Captain Steinberg, and including members: Captain Seley, Major Ruchman, Lt. Weissberg, Misses Hilliard, Barry and Weisel were responsible for the most elaborate decorations of any of our dances thus far. This included the erection and decoration of a bandstand, lighting effects, window trimmings, and overhead crepe paper hangings. A large sign over the bandstand read -- "RUCKER COLLEGE = CLASS OF SEPTEMBER 1942." This was surrounded by caricatures of Colonel Donnelly, Colonel Landes, Colonel Klingensteines, Major Karelitz and Major Ginsburg. Another amusing display depicted a grinning familiar mustached villain with the sub-title -- "Look Out Hitler -- The 3rd General Is Coming."

An adjoining room was equipped with a bar and a large buffet, which was latter ladden with a great variety of foods. Captain Freid was in charge of food arrangements, and Major Somach was again responsible for the organization of the party. T/Sgt. Schwartz and his staff of men at the mess hall were of great assistance in the preparations.

The dance was unanimously acclaimed the greatest success of our young social history. Formal attire was worn by the Nurses, and the Officers and their wives. Music was supplied by the dance band of the 11th Hospital Center which has recently been augmented by musicians from various "name bands". The bar did a sell-out business and added to the hilarity of the evening.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th:

Late breakfast was, as usual, served by the nurses at their Recreation Hall. This consisted of tomato juice, coffee and toast. The day was spent by most of the unit in rest and recuperation. A buffet supper was served by the nurses between 5 and 7 P.M. This was featured by "Home Made" apple pie prepared by Miss Catherine Vance in her spare moments during the afternoon. It sure was good - the kind
that mother is supposed to bake back home. A song-fest followed supper with Miss Lena Levine bringing out some old favorites on the piano.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9th to 16th:

We are to spend our next two weeks, and perhaps longer, at the Station Hospital. The chief purpose of this training is to enable the Medical Officers to acquaint themselves with Army Hospital routine. The officers were delegated to the services to which they will probably be assigned in our own hospital. The nurses have been rotating about the wards of the hospital on part-time assignments during the past month, so that they are old hands at Army routine by this time. Henceforth, they are to work on a full-time status.

The officers marched over to the hospital in formation on Monday morning (November 9th). We arrived at hospital headquarters at 8:00 A.M. to find that we were not expected to report until 9:30. The surgical men received their assignments from Col. Klingenstein, and the medical men from Major Karellia. There is a great variation in the type of service that was encountered by the individual officers. Some of the men have assumed command of a ward of their own, and are responsible for the care of patients on that ward. Others are acting as observers, and still others have been put to work at doing the routine work that one finds on a hospital service. The similarity between the work on the Army ward and the days of our internship is quite notable. Our House Staff men at Mount Sinai would undoubtedly derive a good deal of pleasure at seeing their attending physicians running about and doing routine histories and physical examinations. However we all realize that it is extremely important to learn how to accomplish the various duties of a ward officer in accordance with Army routine and regulations. There is a good deal of administrative work associated with the command of an Army ward, with which we were never concerned back at Mount Sinai. Property checks and responsibilities, discipline of patients, routine forms for diagnosis, and a variety of reports are some of the new aspects to be learned.

It was the consensus of most of us that our time at the Station Hospital has been more enjoyable and interesting than we had anticipated. Of course, the contact with patients, after two months of vacation, was welcomed by all.

The Nurses’ Recreation Hall has been further equipped with a Radio-Phonograph set, comfortable soft-cushioned furniture, and tables. An official-size ping-pong table has been furnished from Mount Sinai Hospital. Curtains are being prepared for the windows to add to the home-like atmosphere of this room.
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16th:

This week was one devoted to intensive preparation for the arrival of our medical detachment. Memoranda were received that our complete medical detachment was scheduled to be sent to Camp Rucker during the next two weeks. The men are coming from various Induction Centers, and thus their basic military training will be the responsibility of our own officers.

New regulations have been placed in effect regarding the number of officers on duty, so that there will be close supervision of the detachment. All the officers have been divided into four groups, in such manner that each group is a functional unit with Surgical, Medical, Dental, and Administrative representation. Each group in succession remains on duty in the area for twenty-four hours, so that at least twenty-five percent of the Officer personnel is always available for any emergency. The O.D. roster is compiled from the men in the group on duty. In addition, all the Officers are to be in camp before 10 P.M. each night, with the exception of Wednesday and Saturday.

Leaves for the officers and nurses have been issued since the completion of the basic training period. About four officers and five or six nurses have been leaving each week, and returning with fresh rumors from New York and other points. It seems that one never completely knows about all the activities at Camp Rucker until he visits the information services at Mount Sinai.

Lectures on Military Jurisprudence are being given by Major Herbert Pollack. Procedure for Courts Martial, and the Articles of War have been explained, and on December first a mock Court Martial trial will be held.

The first contingent of 177 enlisted men arrived on November 20th at 11:30 P.M. They were brought into camp on the railroad siding, and were met at the train by Colonel Donnelly, S.M. Colonel Lande, and a group of Officers. Lt. Steck was acting Detachment Commander, in the absence of Lt. Ballard (who was home on an emergency leave). The troops seemed tired and rather low in spirit after the long train ride, and it was quite remarkable to note the rapid improvement in morale and revitalization accomplished with the hot cocoa, doughnuts and sandwiches which awaited the men in the mess hall. It proved to many of us that the "Hot drink and food" recommended to us in our days of training as one of the first treatments for the fatigue and mental depression of soldiers returning from action, is more than just a statement out of a Training Manual. The morale of the men was immediately lifted as they proceeded to their barracks to prepare their bunks for the night.
The schedule for the basic training of the recently acquired enlisted men is proceeding under the tutelage of the Company Officers, and the non-commissioned officers in charge of platoons. A complete training schedule has been devised by Major Rick, Plans and Training Officer, in accordance with Army requirements. Most of the Officers are participating in this program and have been assigned various subjects to be taught to the men.

Our unit is not without "Privates Hargrave". The usual amusing, and at time pathetic incidents that one hears in anecdotes about recruits are reported daily. Some of these may prove of interest for this history.

One soldier was assigned to "lumber detail" early in the morning and given the usual instructions about "sawing big ones into little ones". Apparently he was not told for how long a time he was to continue to work, so that, as the sun was setting he stopped a N.C.O., passing his huge pile of "little ones". With a pleading tone to his voice, he asked - "I don't mind doing a full day's work, and I don't want to complain, I've been out here all day though, and I just want to know whether it would be all right if I took a few minutes off to get something to eat?"

The other night, six officers were engrossed in conversation in front of our barracks, when they were startled by a roaring command - "ATTENTION". They all expected to see the Surgeon General drive up the road from the tone of the command, but instead, there was one of our recruits walking on guard duty. He clicked his heels, saluted, and then walked on. The officers returned the salute in a reflex manner and remained stunned for several moments later, when the humor of the situation became apparent. The soldier had been taught in his class on Military Courtesy that, when he saw an officer, he was to call the other soldiers, who might be about, to attention and then salute. He had misinterpreted the rule and called the officers to attention.

The men had not, as yet, received their instructions on Military Courtesy when one of the soldiers came up behind Capt. Doubillat on a recent rainy day. Administering a hearty slap on the back, he blurted, "Hey bud, it's a lousy day! Isn't it?"."Captain Henry's" mouth hung so widely open that he was unable to return any opinion on the weather.

In spite of these illustrations of the green variety of men we have as regards Army customs, Colonel Donnelly has stated that he was pleased with the selection of soldiers assigned to us. There are several well trained technicians included, who will undoubtedly prove most valuable. Several laboratory technicians, hospital orderlies, and dental technicians should fit in well with the professional services. In addition, we have electricians, plumbers, mechanics, welders, cooks, and even one barber, who "specializes in trimming mustaches".
During retreat ceremonies on Monday, Colonel Donnelly presented promotions to several of the soldiers, who have served with our organization as a cadre since its activation. The ceremonies were impressive as each man in turn stepped forward to receive his certificate of promotion and a handshake from the Commanding Officer. It served not only as a boost to morale, but as an incentive to the new men to increase their own grade.

Thanksgiving Day was a day of duty for this unit, but did not preclude the usual gastronomical exercises associated with this occasion. The wives and children of the Officers were invited to dinner in the General Mess Hall. Major Herbert Pollock and Lt. Ralph Peters and their staff of cooks prepared a lavish menu that added to the already plentiful meal prescribed by the War Department. Amongst the courses included were: Stuffed celery, turkey soup, sliced turkey with oyster stuffing, frozen cranberry sauce, fruit salad, candied sweet potato, peas, pumpkin pie, ice cream and coffee.

On Thanksgiving Evening, the Nurses sponsored a dance in their recreation hall to which all the officers and their wives were invited. The decorative scheme was in keeping with the Thanksgiving spirit, and featured autumn leaves, pine branches, corn stalks, and a series of impressive spider webs. The band stand was located in a corn patch and was surrounded with large green citron melons. A buffet supper was prepared by Kitty Vance and Kate Molchan with the assistance of the mess hall staff. Two large stuffed Turkeys and a Roast Ham shared honors with pickled herring in sour cream sauce. Colonel Donnelly carved the turkey and did a real surgical job on the bird. Ed Weinstein and Charlotte Seeley were crowned King and Queen of the dance when they picked oranges and lemons with the number 13 from the male and female pine trees on which they were hung. A waltz contest was held and won by Lt. Zimmerman and his wife, who were rewarded for their prowess with a live chicken. That is - if they can catch the chicken, they can have it.
The culmination of the series of lectures on Military Jurisprudence was represented in the formal mock court martial that was held in the recreation hall of the 11th Hospital Center. Eddie Hick was accused of desertion, conduct unbecoming an officer, and committing "mayhem" in robbing and destroying government property. The testimony for and against the accused was prepared by Abe Penner in his typical conscientious fashion. In his capacity as Trial Judge Advocate, it was Abe's show from start to finish. Lt. Col. Klingenstone made a very dignified President of the Court while Lt. Col. Lade was a helpful Law Member. Abra Pollack, Harold Abel, Ben Allen, Dennis Jucksman, and Lou Wassermaan were Members of the Court. Ralph Peters was a formidable Sergeant-at-Arms complete with pistol and pistol belt. His main duties were to guard the prisoner and to usher in the witnesses. With Abe Penner as legal master of ceremonies, the court hearing went along very smoothly. Except for the formal uniforms and the saluting of the President of the Court by the witnesses, the procedure was similar to a civilian court. Various points of military law were emphasized and in general, the proceedings were handled in a serious manner. A certain amount of humor was introduced in the testimony of the witnesses. The main defense was based on the intoxicated condition of the accused and although he did not deny the charges, he pleaded lack of wilful intent. He then threw himself on the mercy of the court to stand trial for intoxication and conduct unbecoming an officer. Of course no decision was reached and in his critique Lt. Col. Donnelly stated that it was a superior performance. The test black-out that evening interrupted the court martial for only a short time and served to heighten the interest of the audience composed of the remaining officers and their wives.

One December 2nd, 2nd Lt. Edward L. Watts and Miss Helen Mae Bryan, our dietitian, reported for duty. During this week, also, 297 more enlisted men reported for duty with the unit making a total of 608 enlisted men in our organization.

Under the able supervision of Vernon Weinstein, a mock Line of Duty Board was organized to try the case of two soldiers who were involved in an automobile accident. The meeting of this type of board in contrast with the more formal court martial resembled a small town's trial of a minor offense. Even in this court, we were impressed with the definite order in which the testimony appeared and was organized. The atmosphere was lightened with the excellent character portrayal of a southern dandy's attempt to deliver testimony.
WEEK OF DECEMBER 7th:

The routine basic training of the medical detachment is proceeding in accordance with the appended training schedule. In addition, specialist schools have been organized and are operating concurrently. The school for clerks is being conducted by Lt. Watts, transportation by Lt. Turner, and cooks and bakers by Major Pollack and Lt. Peters. There is little idle time to spare for any of the men, and many of the specialists attend evening schools to complete some of the basic lectures that they miss during the day. The enthusiasm, with which the men accomplish their assignments, has been noted by all the Officers.

The regular Saturday inspection periods have thus far revealed the barracks to be in excellent condition. Colonel Donnelly has praised all the platoons for their superior showing. The weekly inspection was won by a platoon of soldiers under the direction of Lt. Lesnick. They doubly deserve the honor banner for the week since their barracks are occupied largely by men with one week of training. Friday night finds all these men scrubbing and polishing everything in their paths—from floors to faces. No one goes to bed before he is convinced that his platoon will shine at inspection on the following morning.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 11th:

Colonel Lande returned from his leave to New York, where he visited with Colonel George Baehr and with several of the trustees at Mount Sinai. Colonel Baehr promised that he would visit with us soon after the start of the year. We are all anxious to get into action overseas, but Colonel Lande was able to tell us that we are probably more advantageously placed than several other General Hospitals without the medical facilities available to us.

The highlight of the week was the swagger stick that Colonel Lande brought back from New York and presented to Colonel Donnelly. It has been the envy of all the "lesser lights" of the staff of officers. Colonel Donnelly has established the custom of presenting the stick to the officer whose platoon wins the weekly inspection. Lt. Sheppard was rewarded with the stick this week, and jauntily carried it about all Saturday afternoon. He was kind enough, however, to allow some of us to handle and fiddle with it for a few minutes at a time.

The two bright spots of the week were the disappearance of Lt. Holland's mustache, and the "name day" party for Lupe Gentile. Moe Holland returned from his leave from New York with a luxuriant growth of jet black hair on his upper lip. No peacock was ever more
proud of its feathers than he was of his cherished precious hair. In the dark of night, and with the stealth acquired by intense study of T. F. "Reconnaissance and Night Patrols", a raiding party slipped into his boudoir and of came the mustache before much protest could be launched by the struggling erstwhile dermatologist. The identity of the villains is at present unknown but they bore a strange resemblance to Sam Karolitz and Amal Glass. It is also rumored, but entirely unconfirmed, that they had to use a wire-clippers for the job.

The "Name Day" was a surprise party for Lupe. She seemed quite touched and amazed when she arrived to find the Recreation hall filled with her numerous friends. A band, specializing in rumba, tango, and conga music, was supplied by the 11th Hospital Center with the cooperation of Colonel Mads. Lupe joined in the entertainment with a group of native songs sung by a trio of Mexicans from the 11th H.C. The feature event of the evening was a parade of names - with each name carried on a placard in "nominating convention" style. Those that are still recalled are: MARIA GUADALOUPE CONSUELA XARRA MARTINEZ GENTILE.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 21st:

For most of the members of the organization, this Christmas represented our first in the Army, and we were agreeably surprised with the degree of warmth of Christmas spirit that could be created in camp. Most of the units in camp have some outside decorations of holly, evergreens, and other colorfull displays.

The nurses' recreation hall and the mess hall have been brightened with Christmas decorations. There were two large Christmas trees with multicolored electric bulbs in the Nurses' recreation hall. A large red brick fireplace with a simulated log fire occupied one end of the room, flanked by a snow-covered tree. At the other end of the room, the walls were covered with two simulated stained-glass panels, painted by patients at the Red Cross building of the Station Hospital. Holly and other evergreens decorated the windows and the rafters.

On Christmas Eve, a party for the detachment was held in the mess hall. A chorus of Nurses, Officers, and men from the detachment sang a number of carols, and were joined in singing of others by all those present. This was followed by a program of entertainment conducted by Pvt. Pfaler, Campfield, and Winters. Pvt. Campfield, a well-known pianist in civilian life, played several solos, and accompanied Pvt. Winters (the boys call him "Happy") and the audience in singing several other popular songs. An "Information Please" contest was conducted by Pvt. Pfaler with Captain Schapiro, Lt. Ballard, Lt. Vernon Weinsteint, and Lt. Mary Terry acting as the "board of experts". Scotty was unmasked as a poetic genius and a worthy match for F.P.A. and John Kiernan, as he correctly identified a number of lines of obscure poetry. The board of experts missed very few questions during the contest, and Captain Scotty Schapiro was crowned winner of the males, Mary Terry as the female champion.
A Christmas party for the Officers and Nurses followed soon after the detachment celebration was completed. Christmas carols were again sung with Major Rick at the piano. Music for dancing was supplied by a juke box and phonograph records. Lt. Russ Price conducted a group of folk dances and acted as "caller" for the Virginia Reel. The usual good time was had by all.

Captain Edward Jemerin has been temporarily detached from our unit. He has been sent to Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta for the treatment of an ulcerated plantar wart, which has been giving him considerable difficulty during the past several months. Three of our nurses (Lts. Kauffman, Self and Wilson) are studying anaesthesia at Lawson, and will undoubtedly look after the Captain for us.

DECEMBER 28th – 31st:

Two of our officers have been sent on detached service for the purpose of taking advanced courses in military medicine. Major Leon Ginsburg left for Rochester, Minnesota to study War Surgery at the Mayo Clinic. Louis Wasserman has been sent to the University of Tennessee in Memphis for a course in bacteriology. Major Herbert Pollack has just returned from a visit to the clinic of Dr. Sydenstricker, where a special study on nutrition is being conducted.

The area of the 3rd General Hospital has been undergoing a steady transformation during the past several weeks. Between a multitude of other duties, the men have been constantly improving the appearance of the barracks and the area. Rustic log fences have been constructed along all the roads and walks. The grounds about the barracks have been raked clean and we expect (at least hope) to see a few blades of grass coming up soon. A parking cantiment of rustic logs have been constructed in front of the officers' barracks. Tables, bookcases, magazine racks, shelves, and numerous other items have been constructed from the lumber salvaged from packing cases and similar sources. The pride that the men have taken in the appearance of their quarters portends well that no matter where the 3rd General Hospital is eventually established, we will make it as clean and as presentable as the circumstances allow.