

October 6, 1917  
Houston, TX  
8:30 a.m.  
2 cents

Miss Gainor Roberts  
206 West Tenth Street  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Gainor,

Well, honey, I just got back from phoning or, at least, talking to Ethel. Boo phoned me just as I got back from a pep meeting which really let us have. Call to quarters having just sounded, it was put off forty minutes.

You have no idea how glad I was to get your letter today. I have been feeling just about the same since Sunday and, dear, your letters always do me a whole lot of good.

Ethel wanted to bless me out for not phoning sooner, but gracious me, we haven't any privileges. We can't use the phone after call to quarters unless it is absolutely necessary. Boo phoned last night, but it was after 7:20 and they wouldn't call me, unless of course it happened to be a case of absolute necessity. I am going to meet them in town again tomorrow night. See, on Saturday, we are off until 12 o'clock.

Gainor, this place has changed about as much as anything could change. The last two years when we could come and go as we pleased and do as we pleased around here and this year we can do absolutely nothing. We don't have any paper laws. By Jove, what is in that book we have to obey. I don't want to kick about having to work because I like it, but I have about the hardest job to fill that there is. You get a cussing out from both ends of the line. You have to keep order at the table and my table has the nickname of being "roughneck". They are all upperclassmen but two. We have 14 on a table now. Last night, the table was a mess absolutely and the major saw it. Well, this morning after we had marched in for breakfast in comes major and stops at our table. There were two other non-coms at the table, but I happened to be the ranking sergeant and of course I got all of it with hazing the same way. Oh, but they are down on that. The trouble of it is we are supposed to stop and report any form of hazing that we see. Well, I'm not going to see any, but then if it is reported and it happens to be in your quarters, why you are blowed up. Why, Gainor, we can't even talk to a fellow out of the window any more. We are liable to be expelled from school and if we are under 21, we can't quit without our parents consent, so what are we going to do.

There is also a rule in the regulations which reads that cadets are only allowed to smoke in their room. Yesterday, Dr. Lovett caught a Junior smoking on the campus and told him to throw his cigar away which he did but he walked right over to the Owl and bought another one. Now he had to have the Institute by tomorrow noon. That just shows that they mean what they say. The captain of the football team came man getting the same punishment, but just for conversing thru the window.

This morning at sick call, these barracks of mine looked like a hospital. Two pots were hit by a Ford last night and one was hurt pretty bad. His head and shoulder were all tied up. Another one had his neck paralyzed. He was critical for awhile, but is better now. Three others had minor cases of sickness. I detailed a line sergeant. The biggest man in school weighs 220 pounds to march those who were able to go up to the major so they could be excused from drill.

This was the first morning that my company clerk had his report or rather my report written by him in on time. Otherwise every thing went alright for the day.

Tomorrow we have a football game with the hospital corp from Camp Logan. Every one seems to think that the team is in the pink of condition and that we have as good if not better team than last year. That is what the men on the squad say, but I can't see it that way. I guess we will be able to tell more about it after tomorrow though,

Oh, honey, I wish I could tell you my troubles, but I can't, but still it does a whole lot of good to know that there is someone who cares, but don't you even start thinking about not coming down here Thanksgiving. You be sure and come. I know we will have a football game, and whether they will allow the dance. I don't know but anyway there will be Review Sat. You see that is the last Saturday in the month, and then, sweetheart, I want to see you and that's more than all the rest combined. Tell Martha and John hello for me. I intended to write them both but when I can't say now. Just two weeks ago tonight and I was telling you goodbye.

Lot of love, Otto

P.S. Address my letter hereafter Room 226 – I, Rice Institute. You see we have our mail delivered to our rooms now.