

August 12, 1918
11 p.m.
Austin, TX

Monday

Miss Gainor Roberts
210 W 10 St.
Dallas, TX

Gainor sweetheart – I am just as sorry as I can be that you were disappointed last Saturday but honey it simply couldn't be helped and now I am afraid that we will both be disappointed next Sunday because I guess I won't be home. Oh sweetheart and I want to come home so bad but it seems like I am not going to hear from that blooming old camp business and they have closed all of the recruiting stations, so I can't get into anything at all. You see they are practically certain of passing this new draft bill and so they have closed all of the recruiting stations, it may be that they will open them again this week, if they do then I will come home, otherwise honey I won't get any credit for the work I've done this summer and I sure want it. I just simply don't want to feel like there is anything hanging over me. Darling don't you think it would be better if I did that. Goodness only knows I'm just crazy to come home, but all that I came down here for was a credit in physics and if I leave without it I might just as well have stayed at home all summer. Honey I sure do know what it means to be disappointed, because I surely have been figuring on having a date with you next Sunday and now – oh sweetheart mine do you reckon we'll ever get together again, the only thing that I am certain about is that if I'm not home before, I certainly will be home the first of Sept.

The other morning when we read in the paper that they were going to close the recruiting stations, four of us went down right away to join the army. I don't know where we would have gone, had we gotten in but when we got there the recruiting officer was out so we waited for him and when he came back he had his little telegram telling him not to accept any more applications for enlistments so now if they don't open up, and I don't go to KY, I'll simply have to wait until they draft me unless I can get inducted into the service.

We went to San Marcos again last Saturday and came back this morning; and I just knew all day long yesterday that I was going to find a letter waiting for me when I got back. I had a pretty good time but not near as good as the time before. You were camping and I was but we were just a little far apart weren't we. I got my nose all sunburned again yesterday and so it is all sore this morning.

Honey do you all have cool nights? We sure do down here. I have to cover up with a big old blanket every morning. I hope you had a good time honey and didn't let the mosquitoes carry you off.

I had a letter from Ethel I believe last Saturday and from the way she wrote she is going back to Houston when Boo leaves.

Last Saturday morning three of us boys took a ride thru the insane asylum grounds, they had all the inmates out for a walk, or an airing I don't know which, but honey it was the awfulest looking sight I have ever seen, the women as a whole looked worse than the men. I believe if I had stayed there fifteen minutes more they would have had an addition to the place. Some of them thought they were making speeches and they would just talk and talk but always in the same tone of voice. One lady was sitting by a tree and had on a bonnet, as we passed by she tipped it to us. It was pitiful but yet it was funny. They were marching the men around and one of them got left. He was running trying to catch up, and every tree he would come to he would run around. I know it was mean to laugh at them but I couldn't help it.

Well Gainor dear let's hope that we will be together next Sunday, even if the chances are slim.

With all my love, honey

Otto