

Tuesday, Apr. 20, 1943.

My dear Johnny:

Just finished reading with great interest your letter written Sunday. It certainly did not take so long for the letter to get here. (Afternoon delivery). Am glad for the interesting things you experience which all tend to take away certain amount of monotony that usually accompanies army life.

In answering the question that you raise, I would say this, that if you can assure yourself of remaining in the Medical Corps by taking an officers training course, and remaining in an office in the Medical Corps even with taking or attending the officers training school, I would not see what that would amount to that would be contrary to our faith. But here is the thing that should be our guide, and that is prayer. All questions should be submitted to fervent prayer, and in some way we will receive a direction as to what is proper for us to do. We must first of all always think in terms of serving Him, not ourselves, but also to equip ourselves so that we can serve Him best.

To me it seems of less consequence what the technical classification is whether 1-A, or 1-AO. The point is that one does not engage in combat duty, that one does not bear arms. Whether or not you can take an officers training course as a unit of the Medical Corps, or whether you have to joining (sic) the Infantry in order to enter into the Officers Training School, I do not know. You might find out. I do not think I would join the Infantry in order to attend such school. There is considerable you can learn in a round about way, as to the possible channels best to pursue, and of the consequences one way or another. If an officers training course is available as a member of the Medical Corps, I see no harm in going regular, if you can still be assured that you will remain in the Medical Corps.

Sunday, a week ago, when I was home from church with Pauli, who was then yet in quarantine because of the measles, I listened to the Broadcast from Salt Lake City. After the music, they had the church of the air (sic), and I liked the address given by Joseph Smith.¹ I wrote for some copies of this address and received them today. While I do not agree with the beliefs of the Mormons, yet this address is true to Scripture in most all of its points, and the warnings he makes are certainly timely. We can all profit by these admonitions. I am afraid though that it is the nature of people to continue in their disobedience, and that God's judgment and punishment must go farther. Yet there are very firm Christians in all lands, and they pray fervently. Yet it is a tragedy that it takes hard times to make people pray and turn back to God. So in good days as well as in bad we must be obedient and thankful and then we have the right to ask for favors and for guidance and strength.

Last Sunday, we attended the Seven Last Words rendition at the College. This composition is really beautiful, and I think that Bethel has always given it a very fine

¹ Joseph Smith - Transcriber's note: This almost certainly had to be Joseph Fielding Smith, Presiding Patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1942 to 1946, and not one of an earlier succession of Joseph Smiths which included the founder of the Church.

interpretation. I never tire of hearing it when well rendered.

We are having some cool nights. I think it froze again the last two nights. But I have been going without my overcoat for two weeks now, and I get along without any inconvenience. But the farmers complain that things don't grow in the fields because of the cold weather. And in places they did not get enough rain to get the oats and wheat to grow.

You also speak about contacting a Chaplain for help in the services. It is true that this would be better when attached to a permanent camp. However, Charles Case, contacted the first Chaplain, and had the Chaplain arrange for him the matter of having him become permanently attached to the Chaplain and he was made Assistant Chaplain. The Chaplain does that not the Army.

By the way, it would be of interest to find out what they have done about your aptitude test. Will anyone give you the information as to how you rated, and whether or not they have any plans about your disposition? You might make this inquiry when you ask about the other matter regarding officers training school.

I judge by articles I have read in papers, that when they try to invade the continent, they will also try to feed the peoples of the occupied countries. This will require an enormous amount of food, and it will mean that our local food supplies will gradually diminish. The people that will be the most fortunate when that time comes, will be the farmers and those who have their own cows and chickens and large vegetable gardens. I have to pay 8¢ for a glass of milk here now, while they make no extra charge for coffee, when served with a meal. People are also complaining because they cannot get the grade of meat they are used to, and then the price is high, and they are short of points.²

I stopped at Irvin's office Last (sic) Saturday and talked a minute with Violet Creglow. Her sister's husband was drafted over a year ago. He has not yet had a furlough. Once in a while you hear of a few of the boys who have not had furloughs. So, don't bank too much on furloughs, so that you don't get too discouraged should you ever be turned down on getting a furlough. But here is one thing you can do. Whether it is from Camp Robinson, or some other Camp, learn of the shortest and quickest way of getting home. I believe that the most direct travel from Little Rock, is over the Frisco³ to Wichita. Is that right? The next possible direct route might be over the Mo. P. to Wichita. Or if there is a direct line to Kansas City, which may be Frisco, or Mo. P. or M. K. & T. or Bus line, then of course from Kansas City the Santa Fe is the best schedule to Newton. Charles Case used to take the Bus to Joplin. But he went by way of Kansas City, whether bus or rail. Some of the boys have let the ticket agents sell them some terrible out of the way round trip tickets. It pays to have several ticket agents give their routing recommendations. Then even the best have to be re-checked. Then too, some of the boys land on slow trains, and

² short of points - Transcriber's note: Food rationing was begun in America early in 1943.

³ Frisco - Transcriber's note: There follows a discussion of a series of railway lines – the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway, Missouri Pacific Railroad, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, and the Santa Fe Railway.

then miss their connections at the next changing point, and their trip takes so long and their stay is then so short. I just called the ticket office for a line on the shortest route to Little Rock, and they tell me from Kansas City the Mo. P. is the direct route. And when one leaves from Wichita, the direct route would be Mo. P. from Wichita to Durand (a depot in the country a mile east of Yates Center), and then to Little Rock. A Missouri Pacific time table would be convenient to better check up on those things. I wonder what kind of a lay-over they have at Durand, how much time is lost in changing trains.

To-nights (sic) paper has the item of the president visiting the camps. So your letter got the news to me before the paper. It seems to me that he is somehow scheming of getting the army on his side so he can count on them voting for him at the next election. I hope the republicans (sic) find a good man to run against him and to defeat him. Anthony Eden was worried when he left Washington that such a thing might happen. The Isolationists put the fear into him. At that I hope they are right. An article in the Sunday School Times tells about God protecting the United Nations in this war. I can't see that He is helping Red Russia along, or would be in any way associated with anything that comes from there. Humans have queer ideas sometimes, even though they believe to stand on Christian grounds. Well, Johnnie, use your judgment about some of these things, and don't act too hastily. Do things thoughtfully and prayerfully. Don't get impatient. He sometimes takes His time for big things.

Lovingly, Your Daddy