

Novell General Hospital
Fort Devens Mass.
April 3, 1942

Dear Mom,

I went on duty for the first time today. We get up at 5:30 am. The bugle blows reveille at six and shortly thereafter troops are marching down the road. There are only a few barracks across the street and the hospital all alone at the top of a hill. We truly have to walk miles if we don't get the bus.

We go on duty at seven. I am on a surgical ward - unlike civilian hospitals the patients have already breakfasted and they also make their own beds when able; and police the ward. The nurses tend to the sick ones. temp B/P and medications

I am off 9-1 today then work until seven to-night. Once the patients are up and about they are given passes to go to the PX, commissary and even into town.

The meals are excellent and I can't

We are wearing our white civilian uniforms until our service uniforms come in. We have to buy our uniforms - have a uniform allowance - also our LT bars I had to borrow a white cap from another nurse for duty.

Well mom and dad - I am getting into the routine. The bugle wakes us up and puts us to sleep.

Now is everything at home - please send me Mother Ray's address.

Love
Mary.

Started our inoculations up at Duvens - tetanus - needles for hot countries - needles cold countries - and needles for cold countries - which will it be? My arms are sore!