

April 30

Dear "Doc",

I have been aiming to write for some time but the call of duty has been too much for ^{me}. It seems years since I left college and like all the boys I like to hear the news. The camp here is not a dream by any means - although it is surrounded by snow covered mountains and the Great Salt Lake. Nearly every other day we have a regular "Western Kansas" dust storm. Our barracks lie in sandy soil - no shrubbery or grass whatsoever. The basic course is a tough one. Things included are - obstacle course - rifle shooting - Thompson sub-machine gun - close order drill - extended order drill - lectures of all types and descriptions - physical exercise and manual of arms. Fourteen hours a day makes one step right out, or fall by the side. I thought the past few days I would fall by the side. I had another group of shots and an impacted wisdom tooth removed one after the other. These army horse doctors don't have a bit of pity. All in all it's really a good life once one is through the basic.