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11-29-1942

### Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [November 29, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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Sunday, Nov. 29, 1942

Dear Motner and Daddy,

Fred came up to Ames last night. In 8 or 9 weeks he'll be moved out of Camp Dodge and sent into foreign service. He has been reclassified from limited service into general service. When he gets his orders to move he'll either be transferred to the infantry or stay in the Medical Corps. If he's transferred to the infantry ~~he'll~~ they'll probably break him to a private and he'll have a short training period in the United States. If he stays in the Medical Corps he'll probably be sent into foreign service almost immediately.

Every time I see him I think that this time I just can't say good-bye to him again. If it were possible I'd marry him tomorrow. We haven't any money, though, and wouldn't be able to live together. He says he won't marry me if he can't live with me and ~~if he doesn't know~~ <sup>maybe</sup> ~~if he~~ comes back. I feel the same way. The easiest way out---to get married now---is the most futile. ~~and that's what I don't want to do~~ We talked everything over last night and I can't see anything to do but wait for each other and pray that the war will be over before too long, that he'll come back and that he'll be able to go to school after the war---that's what he wants to do and that's what ~~is going to be~~ ~~is going to be~~ I want him to do no matter what else has to be sacrificed. Waiting wouldn't be so hard if we knew ~~surely~~ we'd be together eventually. I know, I'm not alone in this but that thought just doesn't help at all so don't keep on saying it.

The news seems incredibly good. News commentators this morning say that we've got Hitler cornered in Europe and the Japs there we want them in the Far East. ~~Within~~ Within 20 days the tide of the war has turned overwhelmingly in favor of the Allies. However, we've just begun to fight. I also think that Germany will crack up before spring. With the scuttling of the French fleet in Toulon Harbor, about all Hitler can do is camp on the northern shores of the Mediterranean and wait for invasion. ~~He can't hold out for long.~~ Japan can hold out a long time. I hope Fred is sent to Africa. ~~Maybe he'll get back sooner.~~ Maybe he'll get back sooner.

I've made a reservation on the Rocket for Saturday, Dec. 19. My finals are over on Wednesday but I have to stay over a day or so and put the "Agriculturist" to press. And then I may go to Des Moines to interview editors at the Meredith Publishing Co. for a job. I'm *not* sure about this because Dr. Nickell is out of town and I haven't been able to preclassify and plan the rest of my program. If I find I'm not going to graduate in June, I won't interview. But I thought I'd better make my reservation late enough for that. I'll go down with Jean Ross who is going to interview for a job on the Register and Tribune and we'll either ~~stay with~~ stay with some of her relatives or at a ~~motels~~ hotel if we have any money. It will be just one night. All I want to do now is get out of here and start working.

The only thing Fred and I ~~xxxxxx~~ want to do right now is announce our engagement. But. We have no money at all let alone some for a ring. How can anyone announce an engagement without a ring? There isn't anything that we can do, is there?

Love,

Virginia