

December 7 1924.

My Dear Captain Carter,

Your note of the 6th has been received. As the eye stands now, that is the right eye I do not think that it is necessary to call in Dr. Wilmer into consultation. It would be an expense not necessary I am certain.

Relative to the left eye. I am anticipating measuring that for glasses when I next see you, that is I believe either Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Until then I think that I would save as much work and reading as you can, that is, only indulge in necessary reading.

Many thanks for your kind letter. I assure you, and you know this even now, that I will do everything possible for your vision and for your comfort.

Believe me, yours most sincerely


Edmund B. Spaeth
Major MC USA

EDMUND B. SPAETH, M. D.
N. E. CORNER CHESTNUT AND 20TH STREETS
PHILADELPHIA

My Dear Captain Carter,

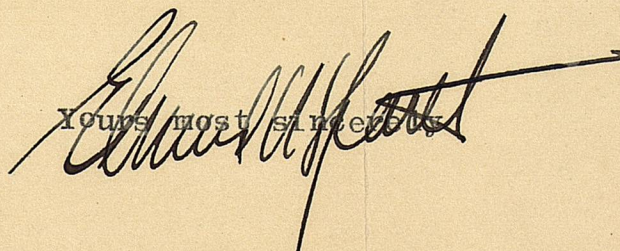
Your letter of the 3rd was received late Saturday afternoon. Thank you for the check you enclosed, also my sincerest thanks for referring General Swift to me. He is coming to the office tomorrow. I will be glad to drop you a note telling you the results and advise of my examination, as I know you are interested.

The remainder of your letter I have reread several times to be certain I will answer it fully. As to the headaches. I do not believe they are or can be connected with the eyes or with eyestrain. Your vision, while impaired, is still of such a degree that reading, or acuity for near and distance are obtainable without severe effort. But such an effort, if demanded, would recover during a night's sleep. Frankly, I doubt whether there is an eye strain headache which is ever present in the morning upon awakening. This statement is almost a proverb in ophthalmology. This is the reason for my almost dogmatic negative to your question, before and again now. I have, however, enclosed a prescription herewith for eserine solution which, if eye strain is a factor should help, but even more if there is any increase in ocular tension as part of your general condition it will stop quite shortly any eye relationship. The reason for the prescription is this, the headaches of increased ocular tension are usually more marked in the morning and become less evident as the day passes on. This is somewhat relevant to your condition.

Now as to the allonal and the insomnia. This is the one outstanding possibility, even more so than that above. I am suggesting most strongly that you stop the allonal for awhile and try some other sleeping potion. I know of your insomnia and recognize the fact that some sort of sleeping potion is necessary. Maybe LUMINAL would be as satisfactory. Please do give it a trial for a week let us say.

After you have used these two preparations for a week drop me another note. I want to know about your condition, and you know I will be happy if I can assist you to comfort.

Yours most sincerely,



DR. EDMUND B. SPAETH
1930 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

January
5, 1933

My dear Captain Carter:

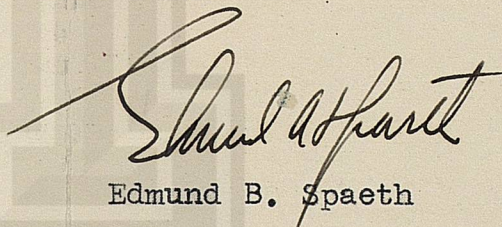
I was very happy to receive that pamphlet you sent me and am proud to have it because of the memorandum as to your service and honors. It was very thoughtful of you to send it to me. I appreciate the courtesy of it.

My best wishes to you for many happy and prosperous New Years.

I haven't been to Washington for some time. The next time I come down I will certainly take the pleasure of calling on you.

Again with best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,



Edmund B. Spaeth

EBS:EMG

Captain Robert G. Carter
Army and Navy Club
Washington, D. C.

EDMUND B. SPAETH, M. D.
N. E. CORNER CHESTNUT AND 20TH STREETS
PHILADELPHIA

My Dear Captain Carter,

First of all, we both must look sharply to the condition of that left eye of yours if you continue to make mistakes as serious as this last. I am returning the bill I sent you with my check for \$20.00. You sent me a check for twice this amount, so I sent your check on to the bank and have returned you the excess herewith. Thank you for your check.

Now to answer your various questions, all of which are quite sensible and reasonable questions. First, - when a cataract is taken from an eye, the lens, - which is the cataract having become opaque - by reason of its extraction lowers the refraction of that eye a certain degree. This must be replaced by a transparent lens in a spectacle frame to bring up the vision of the eye again to normal. But because of this artificial lens the image which is formed on the retina cannot be of the same size as that formed by the natural lens of the opposite side. A marked dissimilarity of retinal images as to sizes is intolerant to sight and comfort however. For this reason, a person who has still vision better than 20/50 in one eye, and an operated eye - post cataract - in the other cannot accept his full correction. It would be and is like trying to hitch up in a team a plow-horse and a race-horse. They will not work together. Therefore sufficient vision is given in the operated eye through the reestablishment of a clear pathway for the rays of light so that the patient has a good form perception. As soon as this is obtained, that most important part of vision is again at hand, i.e., depth perception. It is the vision of binoculars as in contradistinction - the vision of a one eyed telescope. The field of vision widens, perspective is again established, movements on the operated side are seen and identified with the seeing eye, colors have their true values again and distances are properly judged. This is especially true with artificial light. By reason of the increased luminosity content reading should be improved as well. At the time of your next visit I will try to demonstrate this more definitely to you however. I am glad you asked me these questions, and am more than willing to describe or explain any part of your case.

Go light on your reading, use good light though not too strong, and keep up the treatment as it has been outlined. Please forgive my teasing in the first part of this letter but I could not help being amused - for it is funny. My sincerest wishes for everything pleasant for you, however. This evening the father of that boy to whom you told stories while you were in the Samaritan Hospital spoke to me relative to you. I told him I was writing you this evening, and he asked me to send you his sincerest compliments also.

December 8th.

Sincerely yours
Edmund B. Spaeth

15 January, 1934.

Major Edmund B. Spaeth,
1930 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Major:

Yours of the 11th instant proved not only a delightful surprise but was most gratifying to me. I had heard nothing from you since my last operation and I most warmly appreciate the effort you have now made after your call upon Mrs. Godfrey, in expressing the kindly sentiments conveyed in your letter.

I had a very hard, uncomfortable and rather critical experience in the Walter Reed Hospital from May until October, as I indicated in my letter to Mrs. Godfrey, but of course I could not go into the details of three prostatic operations. I was given at my age (89th year) about a 50/50 chance. Major Kimbrough performed the operations. When I thanked him upon leaving the hospital for "pulling me through the mess", his reply was: "It has been a very great pleasure to attend you. I merely performed the operations but you pulled yourself through by your nerve, endurance, will power and superb courage; we have never had a better patient in this hospital than you have proved yourself to be through it all and Colonel Keller and all of us are very proud of you." All of which was most consoling to me spiritually although the body was still weak. I am now as sound as a dollar and, with the exception of chronic spinal arthritis am as well as I ever expect to be.

I was afraid I might get my left eye infected so I went to the eye clinic and had Col. Goldthwaite examine me between operations. He assured me that I need have no anxiety regarding that possibility. By the way, he is, on his father's side, a kinsman of mine. My middle name is Goldthwaite. He referred to you during our interview.

Now, my dear Major, you state that Mrs. Spaeth and yourself may come over sometime in the near future and give me a call. It would afford me very great pleasure to meet you both again and also to have you dine or take lunch with me.

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here at the Club on any day you may name and to suit your convenience.

I lost my eldest daughter at the Walter Reed Hospital last March. She had intestinal infection and abscess of the liver. Keller operated but could not save her. Just two months later I went in for my own operation. I was mourning her loss, and this with arthritis were serious handicaps to my own recovery.

The sight in my left eye is still normal and I read and write with perfect freedom, only interrupted by both eyes watering, and frequent use of a wiper -- particularly noticeable during my operations. You did a great job for me in my old age, for which I have always felt very grateful, as I am now for your nice letter.

With warmest regards to both Mrs. Spaeth and yourself,

Always most sincerely,

R. G. Carter,
Captain, U.S.Army.