

4 Febraury 1944

Dear Mom:

Began writing you a letter yesterday but after one paragraph was finished the ribbon went haywire on me. Thus thenew ribbon on the machine.

Last night I went to a party given by Company E. All the company's are giving anniversary parties. All the parties are built around food as you can well imagine how important a part food plays in this man's army. We had sashimi, Tempura, hekka, sukiyaki meat, salad, rice - and then a program afterwrads which was real grand. I had a grand time - daddy also sang again. Getting to become quite a crooner.

I didn't take my leave this week as I had planned as the regiment would not accept the change. Thus I am planning to take my leave as originally scheduled on the 21st of this month. As presently planned I want to split my leave in two - come back from this leave after visiting Hank in time for the Easter program and then leave some time after Easter to give Takeshi a surprise visit. Please don't tell any of th^e friends as they might spoiltthe surprise.

We are now spending all the time in garrison and havent been out in the fields for quite a while. Guess that phase of our taining is now all over with. Our group came through the last maneuvers with flying colors and seem to be well thought of by the higher echelon. What the next phase of our training is going to be, no onereally knows.

Expect I had better start learning to like sphagetti. Understand that there is quite a strong rumor that we are going over or have gone over - don't believe anything until you actually get a letter from me with a APO address in New York. Then you can bet your life that we are overseas. Am kind of sad to hear that the new draftees may come to Shelby, as I can think of better places to be then in the south here. To go through the hot summer again and the chiggers and the woodticks - and train in an inhospitable country is not too happy a situation. However, the south isgradallylearning to accept the boys .

Last night, I couldn't sleep very well. Kept thinking of Peter and all the fun we used to have together. I miss the boy very much and wish I could have a few days with him. He must be changed although I tink of him as he was when I left home and the way I used to talk to him would not be appreciated by a matured feller likehim now. I can still hear him yelling, in the games he used to play and always think of the nights I used to carry him on my back and do bombings. Summer will be here soon - please be careful about his swimming unless an older feller goes with him.

Take care of yourself - will write very soon.

as ever

Love
Nick