

AIR MAIL

6 July 1945

Dear Mom:

Got your letter yesterday which was written on the 18th. Didn't know you were sick but it was too late to worry about it. Please watch out for the kids as no doubt the flu epidemic and other epidemics will be coming around - as is inevitable in all wars. Glad to read of Peter's grades - he is improving and no doubt has many friends among his playmates. Please tell the boy that I am very proud of him.

Sorry to hear that the neighborhood has changed so much - but then it was bound to happen. Just what we will do after I come home I do not know - with housing shortage as you described it and everything -

So Dr. Lillestrand is still at Aiea. I have thought about him often - he certainly was a nice feller.

We are still hanging around this area in northern Italy but expect very soon to be moving down south near Pisa again. That leaning tower of Pisa is certainly not what I expected it to be - in the first place, all the surrounding is dirty and unkept. The tower sticks out of all the Italian slums and dirt like a sore thumb - but it does lean quite a bit. However, it isn't worth miles of traveling to see that.

The outfits are gradually being pared down - the old timers are leaving and sooner or later we will have none but the new men. It's going to be a hard job for the chaplains I am afraid - especially with the men so anxious to go home and having to stick around here. Oh well - maybe it is just as well. Going home is going to be tough for a lot of these men as I am quite certain that the treatment many of them are going to receive at home is going to be a shock to them - veteran or not and these boys are in no mood to take anything after seeing so much fighting. I am afraid of what might happen - for self control and wise handling of incidents are going to be very necessary and these kids are too young.

I am trying to get a trip to Palestine before I go home. To be so near Palestine and not being able to visit the home of Christianity. In peacetime Europe ought to be a grand country to live in. If I had a job here I think I would like to live in France or some country hereabouts - but in war it is pretty tough place to live in. The people are really nice although rather shallow in their living and thinking I think. One thing - you don't have the racial lines here as you do in America which is a pretty odd thing to say of a democracy.

Will continue tomorrow.



AIR MAIL

7 July 1945:

Dear Mom:

Here it is 8:15 in the morning - still running around in my clogs and seating ~~in~~ my tent. Chaplains are rather lucky as they have a large tent to themselves and a personall jeep - but this morning I sent out Hama naka to look over the car and fix a few things here and there before we make any long treks. We will be leaving in a day or two -

After writing to you yesterday - I went to the lake for a swim. Spent a grand afternoon lying in the sun and regaining some of that tan I lost during almost two years of "civilized" life. Now that the war is over for us here - we do get a chance to relax. After swimming we had supper - rice and pork chops and a salad which again is so different from combat days. Then went out to the city of Bergamo with Danny Aoki - Rev. Aoki's son and Yoshio Nakagawa - a grand feller. There wasn't much to do in Bergam except sit around the side walk cafe and seethe world pass by. These sidewalk cafe's are pretty nice things - and the Europeans have a pretty good thing in it. However, how sanitary they are - I don't know inasmuch as some dust get around.

I usually go to bed near midnight - as they day is so long. It becomes dark about eleven he eabouts so that it is hard to sleep. Get up at six or six thirty - breakfast at seven. For breakfast we always have two fried eggs and bacon - done army style so we don't appreciate it as much as if it were home.

Just what my future disposition will be - I do not know. The Colonel wants me to stay so I won't be able to go home, immediately - but will be coming home before Christmas I am sure. After all that isn't so long.

I plan to go swimming again today - it gets hot here in the afternoon. Hope you received the check of 200 dollars I sent you in the last letter. Just put that in our travel fund - we'll need it some day.

Take care of yourself mom - I do worry over your health and if you can't keep up with your work and home - drop the work. Love to the kids

love

*Shir*