

4 September 1944

Dear Mom:

Awoke this morning and found three letters waiting from you and Hank for me. Your letters with the 20 cents airmail on it gets here considerably faster so please continue using them. Also received a package containing the glasses that Shinso sent over so please thank him for me. They didn't fit exactly perfect on the rims but then it was the best they could do I know. I feel like a new man now with a pair of glasses that fits.

Since last writing you there wasn't very much to write about. I went out to visit the front line troops daily, and one day went out into no man's land with a squad of men to retrieve a boys body. The body was laid out in a mine field and I suspect the body itself was mined but the engineers fixed that. Being the officer of the group, I had to take the lead across the river into the mine fields and to take the body out. I was very scared naturally, not knowing when something would blow me into kingdom come - but could not show fear before the men as they would become scared too. I just took it as a daily routine and finally after an hour or two got the body out. Now that I am over it - I feel so much better. Yesterday I had services in the front line for the men - my usual Sunday routine.

Heard that Chaplain Yamada's jeep hit a mine - it gave him a few bruises not too serious but others in the jeep were hurt very badly. I am hoping that they all come through ok. Driving around here is so terrible especially on unknown roads - I have seen a few results of mine explosions, and know how terrible it can be.

I am getting paid to day and hope to send home some money this pay day when Tak pays me back. You see, I am going back to my haystack for a short while again which gives us no end of pleasure and relief. I have sent you two checks so far from Italy - a money order and a government check. Hope you got both of them. I think that my promotion will come in this week. Lord knows it has taken so much red tape and such - I never expected it until the next war - it gripes me no end as I should have gotten it as a chaplain long time ago.

I bought another little doll for Jane. A florentine doll and hope to send it back the first chance that I get. Of course Jane won't be able to play with them for a long time yet but know that she will enjoy looking at them. Just tell her that her dad is thinking of her.



Am so happy that Margaret and family are taken it very courageously. I was afraid of Mrs. Iguchi - that she may have a collapse or a breakdown knowing how much she thought of Tani.

Doc's letter arrived the other day and many letters from the new club in Waipahu. They are doing a grand job and know that the boys really appreciate their efforts. If they only knew how much in morale letters do - they are repaid a million times.

I had been in Rome after the 2nd of August so that would explain the lack of letters at that time. However, I must have more than made it up as letter writing became an avocation with me for the rest of that period.

I will try to find a good watch for you - nothing but the best for you. So far I have not done any serious shopping, just few odds and ends for souvenirs. This morning if I have a chance I hope to get into the city nearby and look around for a watch. May be able to pick one up cheap.

From the news so far - the war seem to be folding up pretty fast. I am hoping that it would be over by the time we get to our next assignment, wherever that may be. We are still in range of the enemies long range guns and last night they were throwing a few big ones around - big enough to rock the house we were in but not enough to make us scurry for cover.

From the news in the papers - the folks at home are really making plans for peace. It ought to be a grand day for everyone that is in the armed forces - we would weep for joy when the day comes. I was interested in the service men's viewpoint of what we should do to Germany. Many of them want to just wipe it off the map as a nation and a people. After we had gone through what we had from them, one can understand their viewpoint. After all Germany has been responsible for almost every major war in the last century or so.

Glad to hear that Chuck wrote to you. He is one swell egg - please tell him to write to me as I haven't got his new address in Washington. He ought to make a first class correspondent for the Star Bulletin.

When we come home, I must plan on that new house. Have a plan won't you - the house must have a court like they have here in Italy - and nice big rooms. Maybe a guest room although I don't know what we should be having a guest room for inasmuch as I want to be with the family alone from now on in.

Will write to you again as soon as we reach our next destination - take care of yourself and don't worry about daddy - his life is charmed by having such a nice wife and family - love to all.

love

P.S. I forgot to mention - I do.

Doc