

NOTEBOOK

Cpl Kenneth Muroshige

Diary – 1942

June 1942 – We leave for the States. No-body to see us off, sad parting. Most of the boys, their first trip away from home. I stay on deck and watch the familiar landscape, maybe for the last time. Aloha Tower, I passed it many times, ask myself, will this be the last time. I'll never forget that last look at our home, Hawaii. Waves racing towards the shores at Waikiki, Diamond Head proudly standing high above the beaches like a guide to ships from far & near. How many times I stood there and watch the waves splashing against the shores. The land is getting dimmer. I say my last Aloha.

First 3 days out at sea very calm so I felt okay. Fourth day it started pitching, many boys sick in bed. Lucky I got

use to ride first 3 days out. Boat use was like a toy in a sea. Seventh day we sight land, everyone happy. We see the States for the first time. We pass below the Golden Gate Bridge, what a sight. We dock at Oakland, California. Oakland, Frisco bridge four miles long, beautiful especially at nite with millions of lights shinning. We can see Frisco, what a large city it is. Everyone tries not to miss anything. Thought we were going to stay there for awhile. Nobody knew our destination. After waiting for a long time we board the train, real Pullmans, oh boy! We leave at nite, boy talk about lights after spending 7 months in a black-out. Everyone's sleepy but we all want to see all we can. Food on boat & train is

excellent. We all try to take a bath in the washroom. We sure are a dirty bunch never had a bath for seven days. Sleep like a log than nite, no worry about submarines. What a large country this is, miles after miles of land & mountains. We see snow on some high mountains. 2nd day we stop at La Platte about 10 a.m. I see Red Cross ladies with baskets full of things. Jumped out of bed & rush to door, boy all kinds of fruits & candies. Everyone get up & rush for the baskets of fruits and candies. We sleep very much satisfied. Boys start worrying if we are going to concentration camp, me I didn't think so. We get word we are to go to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, now everyone's at ease. Sent telegram home third day on train. We are told we get to camp at nite, everyone's happy. Never traveled so much & so far in all my life. We get

June 16th Camp McCoy

to Camp McCoy about 11p.m. Didn't look so good at nite. We see tents all fixed up for us. After being assigned tents we all rush for the PX which was kept open for us. Clerks surprise how easy our boys spend money. After having a hambruger & milk I rush for the shower. What a crowd at the shower, everyone had the same idea. Get there first & wash. We get a shock, boy, it's ice water we are taking a bath in. We drink this kind of water back home. Too late to change our minds, had to take a bath. I sure was dirty, we took a bath shivering. Boy! It felt good to be clean again. We sleep five in a tent. Went to bed wondering what was in store for us in the future. Really is cold at nites.

Morning really a nice country. We get organized into companies & platoons. Every one is eager to get started. Also we ask the few white soldiers how it is there. Found out what towns they go on passes. Toma 12 miles away, small town. Sparta only five miles from camp, also a small town. La Crosse 42,000 population is 40 miles away. We all can't wait to get passes. We start our daily army routine. Tried not to go to town at nites but felt so homesick I had to go to town. My first visit to La Crosse & dancing at a nite club name of Troca-Daro. Small nite club but it sure is full. Surprised to see so many wahines drinking at the bar. Our boys are having a good time dancing. Everyone is friendly here, they don't know we are Japanese. I join the boys & dance, kind of clumsy. I don't drink so I can't get used to seeing

the haole wahines drink and can they drink. The boys thought they could out drink these wahnes but it was just the opposite. They put our boys under the table. Everyone surprise cause our boys are so freely with their money. Plenty of goldiggers around but our boys don't know it yet. They sure take advantage when they see suckers. Later our boys find out about these wahines but many of them were taken down. The people find out we are Japanese but most of them are nice about it, especially the wahines. Me I don't have much money so can't go to town so much. Boys in our tent are Shimizu, Kajita, Tanaka and Ochi, really a nice bunch and we get a lot of fun.

Meet Mrs Falke at nite club, you know these haole wahines like a good time once in awhile. Surprise to see a lot of old folks in the nite clubs. After meeting her, I never did see her again until I met Violet at a picnic. Surprise to find they are relatives. Violet invites me to dinner. We sure had a nice time at picnic, I was only soldier. Meet Billy, Violet husband, really a nice person. We get along very good. Meet many people at Goldbeck's. Later Richard & I always go there for dinner. We play cards & dance. We also got invitations from Mrs. Falke. Kay & Corinne Falke are really cute. I spend my time on week ends either at one of their homes. They take me to picnic & sight seeing. Feel just like a son to Goldbecks. Richard & I usually go bowling at La Crosse.

Also go to USO dance there. Most of our boys get to know a lot of families in La Crosse & Sparta. Some of our boys get married to La Crosse girls, they are crazy for our boys. I make cpl. In August, no more KP for me. Later found out its better to be a private. Our first visit to Chicago almost got lost trying to get out of station. These streamliner trains are really fast. Took 4-1/2 hrs. to Chicago. Our first sky scrapers, boy what a thrill. Stayed at Y.M.C.A. Only 75 cents a day, very cheap. Chicago all soldiers ride free on street cars, a good deal. Went sight seeing, visited Grant Park Planetarium, Soldiers Field, Museum of Natural History,

Went up top of Chicago Tribune building. Also visited Riverview Park, Coney island of Chicago. Had lots of fun riding those dippers. Saw baseball game at Comisky Park. Also saw Gen Autry Rodeo at Soldiers Field. He is good looking & can he sing. Went to a couple of nite clubs, boy they sure charge you plenty for a drink. Strip teasers on stage but nothing to it. Second visit to Chicago saw Burleque shows, boy it makes you laugh, plenty of dirty jokes. Cost 50 cents a show, we went to almost every show. Our first snow early one morning. Boy we get a thrill. We go out for snow fights. We make ice skating rink. Its something like roller skating. Ten day furlough to Camp Grant, Illinois. Rockford nice town nice camp. We go & look for luzo (?) Suda. Find him same old guy. On way back

we stop at Minneapolis & St. Paul.
Really large cities so didn't stay there
long. Some guys got only 7 days furl-
lough, we were lucky. We have orders
to move to Camp Shelby. We sure trained
a lot but they say its going to be harder
& hotter down south. Didn't say goodbye
to Violet & Falkes, against rules. Sure
hated to live Wisconsin. Took two days
to Shelby, we stop at Chicago on way down.
We left Wisconsin on 9th of January.
What a lousy place Shelby is. We
sure train hard. Its very cold
here at nites although there's no snow.
We get caught one nite out in the
woods. We didn't know it gets so cold
down there. Had to make a force
march back to camp. Never will forget

that hike. We didn't have no winter clothing with us out there. We get three weeks manovers & it sure is rough. We visit Hattisburg, small town but talk about soldiers in town. More soldiers than civilians it seems. We go to Louisiana for manovers. We get our first taste of wood tick & chiggers. They are small but they sure do a lot of damage. Talk about snakes, me I'm scared of them. They live under grass & in rivers. One guy had one crawl over his stomach while sleeping, sure scare him to death. One guy got bit by one but it wasn't poisonous. I sleep in hamocks, feel safer. Spend two weeks in field hospital. Really was a tough maneuver. I don't think anyone would ever forget Louisiana. Visited Alexandra & Leesville. June 8th we are thru with manovers everyone happy. Wait for

train at Camp Polk. We hear 442nd are in Shelby. Many boys have brothers in 442nd. Many reunions, everyone happy, long time no see. Furlough to New York again was lucky to get 15 days. Pass New Orleans on way to New York. Trains sure are full. Take two days & nites to New York.

Drop off in Washington D.C. We see the sights of our capital, can't believe we were there. Went up the Washington Monument & we could see for miles around. The famous Potomac River slowly flowing to seas. Spend one day there & caught train for New York City. Pennsylvania Station what a large station. Didn't know how to get out of station, talk about

people. Lucky Takushi was there once. We find our way out & head for Sloans Y.M.C.A. No rooms empty so we go to a hotel for nite. New York what a large place it is. Thousands of people & cars moving back & forth. We go to visit the sights of New York. Radio Music Hall & Rockettes. Rockettes really are fancy. We see the Three Andrew Sisters, they look prettier than in pictures & can they sing. Also saw George Tobias in person. Saw "Junior Miss" stage play, very good. Went up the Empire State Building. Elevators are really fast. We can see practically all of New York, what a sight. Normandy still lying in pier. Saw Fred Waring & Chesterfield program, really was good. Went to see the Statue of Liberty & rode our first subway train. Boy are they fast. Climb

the Statute of Liberty, sure some climb. Plenty of visitors there every day. Went to see Coney Island, boy the beach was packed for miles. Sure is a large beach, thousands of people lying on sands, one can hardly walk. Went to NBC studio & saw how television works. Broadway & Times Square is just pack with people. Went to Miyako Japanese Resturant & did we eat. Stayed New York 6 days & came down & stopped at Chatanooga for a day. Next day went down to New Orleans. Visited the French Quarter nothing much but old antiques. Went swimming at Lake

Ponchartrain. Water nice & warm.
All kinds of amusements there.
Swam the whole day then came back
& did a chop suey dinner, really
was good. We meet boys from our
company & they tell us we have
orders to move out. We come back to
camp & start marking our clothes.
We are going overseas, everyone is
excited. We leave for Camp Kilmer.

August 12

Train ride wasn't any too good, crowded
& hot. Camp Kilmer nice camp not too
far from New York. Everyone waiting
for pass to New York City, but no passes
are allowed. We see Cab Calloway band
The theatre was really pack, he is good.

August 19th

We leave camp for the boat, we are on
our way overseas. Boat sure is

packed, we stay on board two days before sailing. Convoy is ready on third day. I wonder if I'll ever come back this way. We sleep below decks by turn, twice a day we eat. The food is good, but its hot in kitchen below. I don't feel any too good, one day I threw out ate too much peanuts. We have services every evening at sundown. The sea is calm most of the way. Keichi Tanaka & me are always together. One nite we sleep on the steps and get step all over. Really hard to get a good place to sleep, its so crowded. I'm broke so we use his money for candies and cigarettes. Really sad to be broke but I use my money while on

furlough. We always share our money together. Have shows on board but its so crowded, one have to stretch ones neck to see anything. We have boat drills every day, every one hates it but but it's always is good to be prepared. We talk of home at nites, we are so far away but still our minds go back to home sweet home. Our convoy is really a large one. Name of our boat is James Parker. There's some very large transports in convoy. Saw plenty of WACS go on board one of them. There's music from the States every day. We are blacked out at sundown. Day after day water nothing but water, wonder when we'll get to Africa. Started writing V-mail letter to my wife & sisters but they turned every one of mine down. Oh well I might as well wait

till I get to Africa. 12th day we see land & then Rock of Gibraltar. Everyone happy to see land but what a barren looking place. Mountains all along the coast of Africa & Spain. We see small towns scattered along the coast & mountains. Now we are about half way around the world. Rock of Gibraltar is just a big rock sticking out of the European mainland. The Straits of Gibraltar is not so very wide so she commands the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. Its very calm after we cross the straits but they say it gets pretty rough at times. We see another convoy heading probably for England, also two large aircraft carriers heading for Africa.

Our planes are flying above so we feel feel safe. 13th day we sight Oran our destination, its beautiful from the sea with its white buildings. Oran has a wonderful harbor. We see one ship all wrecked lying in the harbor & some bombed building, other than that there's no scars from the war. Some of our convoy leaves us and heads for some other port. Later we hear they were bombed by enemy planes. We are all eyes now we are in Oran. Everyones curious to know what kind of soldiers we are. We board the the trucks and start for the staging area. Passed thru part of Oran & arab kids start yelling for cigarettes & candies. We throw them some & boy, they sure go after it. Much to our surprise these kids smoke. They sure look dirty, they say the arabs don't bath, looks like it.

Soldiers every where you know there's
a war on. We find much to our
disappointment the staging area
so far from Oran. We pass grape orch-
ards & some other fruit orchards.
I find Africa has good farming
lands. Its hot but not like it was in
Shelby. We start to get assigned
to tents. There's no grass growing
we have to sleep on the dirt. Tasted
the water & it sure is lousy, just like
half salt water. One can drink a canteen
full but his thirst won't be satisfied.
After washing our hair it feels sticky
as hell. Can't get studs out of the
soap for washing clothes. Boy it
sure gets cold at nites. One can
see for miles around nothing but

hills & lowlands all barren. Later in winter there's green grass growing all around. Boys get passes to Oran so they have their money changed. Sure funny looking money they use here, all different sizes. They call them by francs. I'm broke so Keichi gets five dollars and we go to Oran. Oran is a very large city but it sure smells bad. Talk about African flies, when they bite makes you jump. Buildings are all brick & they are of modern design. There's many French people in Oran & the women are very pretty & modern. We see those veiled Arab women. They have some kind of mark on forehead. They told us not to stare at those women cause the arabs feel insulted, funny costume. Not all the women are veiled. We see arabs sleeping on side walks & funny

thing the flies don't seem to bother them
a bit. Some kid with boils on head
walks around with millions of flies
on his head. We go to the market to
get some fruits but change our minds.
It smells so bad & flies all around.
We see all kinds of foreign soldiers.
The prices on goods are terrific.
They warned us not to show watches
on wrist cause an arab will trail you &
beat you up if gets a chance just
to get the watch. Mean people these
arabs. Tried some French wine but
didn't like it. Went to U.S.O. club
to have lunch. Most of the eating
places are restricted, too dirty. They
have a street car, very few civilian
cars. Went back to camp because

of a bad cold. Went on guard duty around staging area. 4 a.m. next morning guard hears a scream but never could say where it came from. About day break a haole soldier is coming down the road minus his pants. Really was a funny sight. He said someone konk him on the head, must have been an Arab. Lucky he wasn't hurt bad. Lt. Hopkins formerly of 298th regiment Hawaii who was fighting with the 1st Division gives us a talk on war. Says the Germans are tough fighters. He was wounded once in Africa & once in Sicily. He sure looks thin. Many of our boys know him. He was waiting for boat to go back home but joins us. Everyone thought he was crazy to join us after he had a chance to go home. We are assigned to 34th Division.

Everyone happy at last we have a father. We move to the 34th Division camp. We learn about German weapons. General Rider talks to all our sgts. They say he is a good egg. We get hot shower at this camp. Bread sure is scarce. We are un a Cork wood forest. The corks are all on the outside of trees. We see how strong the German Teller mines are. We get some live rifle grenade to practice, it sure is terrific but not accurate. News from Salerno beach is bad. We get orders to move anytime. This is it, we are going to fight after all the training. Sleep with Keichi last nite, we talk of home. Wondering what the future holds for us. Our battalion & 133 regiment are on first list

to make landing cause other regiment have all their weapons packed up. We get instructions on how to get on boot & how to get off. I know we are on the first wave.

Sept. 19

We leave for Italy from from a port we don't know name. Sea very calm, food very good. We get books on how to speak Italian. Ammunition is passed out. We play cards to pass the time away. Convoy is a large one. One of our boat is hit by torpedo & is burning. Hope we don't have an air raid. We hear the Germans are retreating.

Sept. 23

We get to Salerno beach there's many of our ships there. We get the order to go over the sides on landing boats with full equipment, sure is heavy. We are packed like sardines

on landing craft. We move around in circles waiting for the other boats. Sure is rough & I feel sick. At last we move towards shore. Lucky our boat gets right up to dry sand so we don't get wet. See many of other boys get in water up to their chests. We land about 11:15 a.m. We see one of our planes coming to airfield close by, kind of crippled. She crash on airfield & starts burning. Lucky the Germans were retreating or sure as hell we would be fighting. We see the mountains of Italy. Boy, its hot here. We can hear the big guns firing. We have our lunch of K ration. We march to bivouac area five miles away with full equipment. Everyone

is really tired. I feel this was one of the worst hikes we ever had although it was only five miles. We go swimming in river about 1-1/2 miles away. In Salerno battle this river they say was red with blood. At nights we see tracers of our big guns.

Sept. 26

We move toward front lines on trucks. Pass town of Bagalio. It is leveled to ground. Montecuvio first rest area. We move same nite again. It rained like hell. I get wet cause I didn't bring my raincoat along. Stop just before day break & sleep on side of road. Ground wet but we fall asleep right away. We get on trucks again go forward. There lots of fruit trees along country. Apples, grapes etc. Every chance we get we go for grapes & apples. We get no rations for supper, have to starve. Reach our destination about

after it was dark. Farmer tells us Germans slept here just the nite before. They must be not too far away. We put out guards & patrols. Food arrives late next morning. We have to rush thru breakfast. We are moving again this time on foot. What a mountainous country. Many bridges are blown up. As day drags on it really gets hot. Afternoon we run out of water but still have to go on. Germans plant plenty of mines on road. Had to carry bar for my man he is tired out. They grab hold of trucks & keep going. One half track get blown up by mine. Heard Italian lady near road gets blown up. No one on half track gets killed. One building

is burning. Germans set fire to it. We stop for the nite in grape orchard. It starts raining & is cold as hell. Try to sleep in my protective hood but I move around too much & it breaks. I lay & just wait for day break. Its muddy as hell in grape orchard. I know nobody slept this nite. Our guns are full of mud.

Sept. 28

We are out of rations so we starve, no water also. They say we are to be the point. We got grenades & bazooka ammunition. Germans must be close but we dont know it. I got five rifle grenades and don't know where to put them. Put some in my pockets & carry one on rifle & one in my hand. We sure are thirsty & hungry. We pass the other outfit who was the point, they were alright they rode on half tracks &

trucks. Pass thru a small town, many Italians come out & watch us. We try to get water but we don't stop so just a few get water. Many bridges blown up by the retreating Germans. We ask Italian people coming towards us if They are Germans ahead. They told us no Tediski (?) ahead. We pass two more turns then all of a sudden we hear machine guns. Bullets right above our heads, we hit the ground. Lucky the bullets were a little high. Third platoon is at the point. Germans start throwing artillery & motor shells. We go down on low ground besides road. I see one motor shell land about 20 yards away. Next one comes closer to us. Four times it got closer & closer to us. I tell

Furuta to move forward. Machine gun bullets are cracking over head. German machine gun is really fast. Our artillery fires on Germans. We move forward shells are falling everywhere now. They say Joe Takata was hit, later he died. Fourth Platoon fires their mortars, one shell explodes & wound about four boys. Our platoon takes the point our squad in front. Germans fire at us & retreats. Machine gun almost get Asai and Takaki. We come to were the Germans had their big guns. One of our shells hit pretty close to that spot were Germans was. They start firing at us again from new positions. Our boys are all tired out, no food or water the whole day. I suck sweet sugar which I saved from the day before. We hear a shell come over but it off the road. We move forward.

Next shell hits were the 1st & 3rd squad were. I hear someone yell. We hear later that Funakoshi, Amazaki of 3rd squad get hit also Takenaka & Keichi & Okimoto of first squad. Couple hours later Keichi died, I feel bad. Couldn't believe he was gone. We stop for awhile & we cut chestnuts to fill us up a little. So far every bridge we come across is blown up. Supplies can't catch up with us. It gets dark & we move forward across gulch. After we get across we stop for the nite, it sure is cold. They send out patrols to town nearby. Heard next morning that they were Germans there but they retreated before day-

break. Tried to sleep in a rubbish hole but its too cold I couldn't sleep. Next morning they relieve us so we could get supplies. German shells start coming over lucky it goes over where we were. We get our C rations about 10 a.m. & water also. We were out of cigarettes so had to bum buds. Our planes are over head heading toward German lines. Germans throw up a lot of ack ack. We stay there for nite but we don't have anything to keep warm. Filled my hole with dry corn leaves. Tonite is not so cold. Next day we get 5 in one ration but had to rush & eat it.

Oct. 2

We hike the whole day, at every small towns the people come out & greet us. We try speaking Italian but get stuck, they talk to fast. We are told to watch for snipers along highway. Some Italian

senoritas try to ask us for our watch & rings. One asks me for cigarettes but I don't have any to spare, she even try to search my pockets. Some people come out with fruits & water & vino for the boys. After passing town we could see our artillery shells bursting across valley. About sundown they tell us we have another ten miles to go. Everyone burns up, we eat our last ration about 8 p.m. Tonite is really a dark nite. Our objective is Benevinto. Italians build their towns on high hills just like in days of the Romans. It starts raining, boy I feel sleepy & tired. About five miles to Benevinto Germans start shelling us. Boy, the road is muddy & wet but we hit the ground every time

a shell comes over. 3rd battalion is ahead of us. It's a mystery how the Germans know our every move in the dark, must be some Fascists giving out our positions. Everyone is tired & sleepy & starts cussing the Germans. We come into Benevento everything quiet & dark, all of a sudden shells start coming over again. Benevento is good size town. We pass thru town & turn off the main road. We thought the Germans don't know we cut off the road but we are mistaken. Their shells is still following us coming closer every time. One company gets separated from battalion so we rest while they try look for them. Now Germans really get our range, we dig. In. More shells fall in our area, lucky there are a lot of duds. One landed in midst of fourth platoon but it was a dud.

I dig my hole with my bayonet & helmet. Rain stop but it is muddy as hell. Just when finish my hole we get orders to move. As soon as we move shells start following us. Germans even know what part of river we cross. I fall in shell hole in river. Its just about daybreak now. We get formed an move back of hill for cover. Every one tired & sleepy our guns full of mudd. There's lots of grapes & apples here. We have no rations so we eat any thing in sight. First chance I get I clean my gun. Try to sleep but I can't. I'll never forget this nite. 3rd battalion suffer 24 casualties. Afternoon we go forward for reconnaissance. Our artillery & Germans are firing back at

each other. We go high ground & have a good view of Benevinto. Germans are shelling it. We still don't get our rations. The Italian ladies sure can carry big loads on heads. Seems the ladies work & men tag along. Nite we got to town of Benevinto & place a listening post. We stop a few Italian coming out of town with belonging. They sure are scared. It really is spooky in town. We place our post near a blown up bridge. It gets cold as hell & we don't have any rolls. Sleep on side of building on ground. Nothing happens during nite. I go back to CP to see if we are to stay there. Theres plenty of peaches in garden we all rush for it, never ate since yesterday morning. They tell us to come back to C.P. Our rations come up. We hear 45 Div. is to relieve us. We have chance

to take a bath. Waited two days before the 45th Div. come up. Lots of fruits & vegetables around so we cook it with our rations. Last nite day we catch 3 Italians who were cutting our communication [sic] lines. Don't know what they did to them.

Oct. 7

45th Div. come up and we pull out to go to rear for rest. They have trucks waiting for us but we sure had to hike far before we got to trucks. Got to rest area and we stay there for 6 days. Plenty of chestnuts and the boys go for it. Got invited to dinner one nite by Italian family but didn't go. Afraid we might move out and get left behind.

The Italians also don't know any thing about sanitation so houses smells bad. 5th day they tell us to pack up and be ready to move. It starts raining. We wait whole day and nite and no orders to move till the morning of the 6th day. Every one gets burned up.

Oct. 13

We move forward on trucks again. Talk about bridges all blown up. It is still raining and roads are very muddy. You can't see any livestock around the country side. They tell us Germans took it all. We camp near Mt. Caburno. Looks like from here this country gets more mountainous. First letter since left States, everyone happy.

Oct. 16. We move forward. Germans Fighting reguard action. They sure

throw a lot of shells our way. From here the Col. tells us we walk till we get to Rome. Thats sure a long ways off.

Oct. 17

E Co. comes up from Salerno were they and F Co. were doing guard duty. They say they had a good time down there. Some had passes to Naples, the lucky guys. We get air raid, German planes bomb area 3rd battalion is. Seems 3rd is always getting it. Some of E Co. boys who didn't dig their holes started digging as soon as we had the raid.

Time of raid we had an Italian cutting our hair for cigarettes & ration. There's engineer out not faraway with equipment to give hot showers. We all go and get our first hot bath since hitting Italy. E Co. is to relieve

us, wonder where F Co. is. Shincan
Abe gives me some cigarettes and gum.

Oct. 18

We move again and cross the Volt-
urno River. We didn't get no shelling
cause we were in reserve and the Ger-
mans were far away. Get 7 more
letters one from sister. F Co. comes
up and there's lots of reunions.
Sent out my Xmas card to wife
and sisters.

Oct. 20

First good meal in a long time.
Bread is scares though, we get just
one slice per meal. Last meal we
get plenty of bread cause other
companies are fighting. Got first
mail from Michie & Shizuko. 2
V-mail from Mieko. We could
hear the guns going of every day

and nite. Looks like the fighting is getting tougher.

Oct. 21

We move forward again at 10 a.m. They say we got 12 miles to go. Pass town of Avavino. See people digging out their belongings, feel sorry for them. Germans blasted some houses in town to block the roads. We are quite close to Jerry, town is in artillery range. We stop just out of town. We can see the broad Volturno Valley. Jerry is across the other side and can see all our movements. We can see our shells bursting. Town on far side of valley is Alief. Thats were our boys are fighting. Our artillery is right close by. Once in awhile the Germans fire back at our artillery. The artillery makes a loud sound when

it goes off. Wonder if we are going to get any sleep this nite. As it gets dark the the artillery from both sides gets heavier. Some started coming over our area.

Oct. 22

4:30 a.m. The Jerries starts shelling us in earnest we get in our holes. The sound of the shells coming over is plain. Hope no one is hit, seems like one landed in our supply area. We sleep in our holes rest of nite. Day break we ask if anyone is hit, no one in the supply is hit. Looks like an artillery duel and we are near our artillery batteries. Hope none of the shells land here. Wrote letter to my wife and Michie while the guns were blasting away and it lasted the whole day. Nite and shelling still goes on.

Oct. 23

Nice and warm today, they are still fighting for town of Aleif.

My false tooth came loose from eating the C ration crackers so I go & have it fixed. Last nite 3rd battalion got caught in our artillery fire and German tanks. It was pretty bad. 1st Platoon goes back for special duty, down Salerno, lucky guys. We move forward down into valley 7:30 p.m. it sure is dark expect when the artilleries goes off. We cross the Volturno River. Get to area 10:30 p.m. cold as hell.

Oct. 24

Morning valley thick with fog & it sure is cold. Lone enemy plane comes over, we start firing. Let go 5 rounds. Anti air craft gunners sure can't hit anything. The figh-

ting ahead is really getting hotter. Nite
air raid by enemy planes. It's a sight
to see the tracers by the thousands.
Could be seen for miles. Next morning
dead are brought back by the truckful,
most are Germans.

Oct. 24

F Co. goes forward to relieve A Co.
We get the dope from A Co. about the
fighting. Some of there boys got killed.
I inquire about Yoshio and hears he's
alright. The fighting sure was rough they
they say. We learn about motors in
case we lose some of our men.

Oct. 25 - Kind of quiet now looks like the
Germans are falling back. Whole day its quiet.

Oct. 26 – Anytime now we are told our
company might go and relieve someone.

Oct. 27. 6 a.m.

Our artillery throw a terrific

barrage at the Germans. We
move forward 3 p.m. Aleaf is
taken by are troops. Get 15 letters
from home, no time to read. We come
to Aleaf, it sure is a mess. See
Italian lady among ruins trying to
salvage some things. Feel sorry for
her. Kids come on road and ask for
candy and cigarettes, had extra
so gave them some. We move into
area where there's long Tom guns.
Looks like no sleep again tonite but
artillery don't go off till early morning
hours. They sure are giving the
Germans plenty of steel.

Oct. 28

It starts raining. 6 a.m. All quiet. 1:30 p.m.
3 enemy plans come over. Antiair
craft guns chase it away. They still
can't shoot any planes down. Their

tracers can be seen back of the planes, not enough lead. We have a quite nite expect it rains.

Oct. 29

We move forward, quiet day, our artillery starts shooting away at nite can't sleep too much noise.

Oct. 30

Very cold morning. Today we are to relieve C Company. Nite no rolls very cold. All along roads Germans have dynamite on large trees along road but didn't have time to set it off. We are to climb a mountain to be flank guard for division. We could see fighting in valley below us. Our artillery comes up behind of us. German shells are falling back of us. One driver tells of how seven

engineers got hit in back of us by a mine. 5 of them got killed. They were trying to bury Italian dead near a well and set off a booby trap. Nite very cold. We have no rations. Morning still no food. I find 3 cans of C rations and start eating it. Our ration comes up.

Oct. 31

11:40 a.m. Enemy planes raid our supply lines. First time so enemy planes come over at once. A & C Co. who were in reserve get caught on road. Suffer some casualties. Some planes came so low we could see their bombs on plane. We are on side of mts. One of our boys get hit by our own 50 caliber bullets from across the valley. Seems those gunners can't hit a side of a

barn. Afternoon our planes come over and drop leaflets over German lines. Its a nice sight to see millions of paper floating down. Some come to our area. Can't read it cause its [sic] all in German. Sleep in farm house, very cold.

Nov. 1

Beautiful morning nice & warm. We could see small hot water springs bubbling down in valley. We move forward getting closer and closer to Germans. We pass a lot of our artillery lined up for a barrage. One 155 battery fires and the ground sure shakes. We pass them & come to town of Carlano high on mt. top. We stay there for nite. Very cold.

Nov. 3 – We are still waiting for

orders and our 2nd squad who went up on highest mt. for out post duty. They come back & say its cold up there. They can see Naples & also saw air raid over Naples nite before. They bury some dead Germans on mt.

Nov. 4

We get orders about crossing Volturno river. Looks like the whole Div. is to cross at different places tonite. We are to follow our artillery barrage which is to move forward a hundred yds. every 6 minutes. They point out our Div. objective, looks like tough fighting ahead. As soon as it gets dark we start to were we are to cross the river. They told us anti-tank guns were to give us support after we get to our objective, which is crossroad. Its a very dark nite

and kind of chilly. They tell us the river is about 18 inches deep were we are to cross. Germans laid a lot of mines so engineers to put white markers were they were mines. We get to the river and wait for our artillery to let loose. Across the river is forest and it looks very spooky. 11:45 p.m.our guns lets loose right across the river. We hit the ground cause the barrage is so terriffic. At 12p.m. midnight F Co. cross first our barrage has moved ahead. Its our turn now I roll my pants up the current sure is strong. First Platoon is leading. After we cross the river 1st platoon S/Sgt trips a wire and get killed, 4 others are wounded including platoon leader. We take the

lead. First platoon took us to wrong place. We find way & meet German outpost. He fires at us we all hit the ground. The German throws up flare to get us excited, we hold our ground. Now we hear all along the line firing going on, also artillery from German guns start falling in river were we just cross. Lucky the battalion has cross already. We have two heavy machine gun attached to us, so they go into action. Jerry takes off but not after one of D Co. boys is hit thru head. Bullets sure was thick for awhile. We move forward & capture 2 Germans who didn't have the chance to run. Company stays there and our platoon is sent forward to look for our objective the cross

road. By now its getting close to daylight. We find our objective, Lt. Kim sends me back to bring up company. I wonder if I could find them in this woods. I find them and bring them forward.

Whole company is assigned area to defend in case of counter attack. Shells are still hitting the river back of us. So antitank guns can't come across. With one bazooka & 3 air rifle grenades we are told to dig in near road. Its daybreak now, we can see Germans high on mountain before and to right of us. 1st battalion is fighting on our right and they sure a taking a lot of shells & machine gun bullets from Germans. Its a wonder Germans don't see us, we are lucky I

suppose. They tell us to dig in and take cover. Dug my hole half way when German motorcycle with 2 guys on comes down the road. I run for my rifle which I left near a tree and as soon as I got to hole it pass ten foot away I let go one round & Sgt. lets go one round of bazooka but also misses. Can't see how he missed when he was all set before motorcycle came. I didn't have time to aim so shot from my hip but can't say if I hit anything or not just saw sparks. Rest of boys down road gets both of them but not after one Jerry started fighting back. Bet both of them didn't know we were there. First platoon captures a truck and kills two Jerries. They bring back some of German ration they took

from truck. Later had a taste of corn beef and it sure was good. Stray bullets from snipers starts cracking in our area. I stay in my hole. We are right in valley so with out antitank guns it don't looks so good if the Germans attack us with tanks. Hear E Co. on our left missed a German tank but it takes off. We could hear their tanks & trucks not far away. Enemy plans come over and bomb back of us & strafe, lucky they don't see us, they sure come low. 1st battalion sure is having a hard fight. One of our company suffer some casualties. Afternoon still no antitank guns come across. Enemy throwing a heavy barrage all day long. Looks like 1st battalion can move

forward. Evening my squad goes out on patrol. I stay back on crossroad. We are told to prepare for a counter attack by enemy next morning. It sure is cold, but I had a good nites rest for the first time, don't know how I slept with all the noise around us.

Nov. 5

Hear that Nagamine my second scout is hit last nite. As soon as day-break we could hear rifle and machine guns firing on our right. German machine gun sure is fast. Germans are keeping up their artillery barrages. Our guns are firing back. Looks like the whole line on our right can't move forward. We are told that our battalion is to attack up the valley at 12 p.m. noon. Germans sure

as hell going to spot us as soon as we go into attack. We don't get chance to eat our noon meal and go into the attack F Co. I think is leading. For a while we don't draw any fires then hell brokes loose. Jerry throws everything at us. Wounded starts coming back. Boys who got killed are on roadside. Its a terrible sight. Enemy planes come over a bomb and strafe. After awhile our company & D Co. is in some tall bushes, every time shells explode shrapnel hits the bushes and branches. First platoon get hit & lose some men. We move forward in ditch now and its full of thorns. D Company boys are sure having a hard time with their heavy weapons.

I sure give those boys a lot of credit. Some of them don't give a heck if they get hit, they are so tired. We now are going thru olive orchard & hear rifle fire at the point near town of Pozzile. There's lots of mines so our mine detectors are called to the point. We are still getting a shelling and it doesn't look so good. A shell lands near by we hit the ground behind a stone wall. I try to get up but for a second or two can't rise. My knee hurts, thought I was hit, took a look but seems just a rock hit my knee, was I glad. Raymond Furuta in front of me can't get up. I ask him if he was hit but he doesn't answer, looks like he was in pain. I move forward and see Hardy (?) Kugiyama, haven't

seen him since we hit Italy, good friend of mine. He had a base plate on his back and it sure is a hard job carrying that thing, hitting the ground and getting up every time a shell comes over. More of our boys are hit and they are laying on side of road & trail. Captain Suzuki our company commander is laying along side of road I ask him if he was alright. But he was hit on leg I think. We are now at foot of mt. and on right outside of Pozzile. We start climbing mountain, its getting dark. Sure took us a long time to get here. Talk about mines on mountain side seems Germans knew exactly where we coming & planted thousands of personnel mines. The men

at the point mark the mines with white toilet paper. Everyone tire and hungry but we don't have time to eat. Its dark now and some places if we make a misstep we'd fall and get killed. Only comfort now is we don't draw any artillery shells. D company can't keep up so stays at foot of mountain for the nite. Even mules couldn't come up this mountain trail. Before the attack D Co. had load [sic] a lot of 81 mm & machine gun ammunition on mules but looks like they have to carry it up this mountain themselves. Don't know what time it is now. At last we get to the top and Germans are right close by. We could hear them talk excitedly and they start shooting and throwing

flares. We hit the ground and wait for orders. Someone from F Company probably a Barman or machine gun is having it out with German at close range. After a while they stop, wonder who got hit. Our battalion commander tries to contact 1st battalion by radio but can't get them. Seems that this mountain was the division objective 3 days ago. We are back of the Germans who were fighting the 1st battalion for the past 2 days. They tell everyone to dig in. B Company is picked to fight its way thru German held mountain to contact 1st battalion. B Company picks 2nd platoon and Lt. Kim picks 1st squad & my squad. We get our

instructions and don't even have time to eat. It's a hell of a way to go & fight with an empty stomach. We know there's lots of Germans where we are going. We move out towards Germans. Met some Germans and let them have it with grenades. All quiet again & we move again, we climb higher on mt Jerries are. Lt Kim sends Takeba our squad leader towards top of mt. while we wait below. He comes running back seems like there Germans up there. Yes, there are cause grenades start bursting, just a few feet from us. We stay low, lucky the Germans couldn't throw a little harder or they would have hit us. We leave 1st squad there to watch our rear and move towards our right. Lt. Kim tells me to follow

Takeba, can't understand why. We come to place where there's a big hollow area on top of mt. and we could hear a lot of Germans talking & smoking. They don't know we are nearby. Wonder how our squad could ever get pass so many Germans. We move to our right again. Lt. Kim and Takabi our scout goes forward. After minutes later Lt. Kim calls for Takeba and after Takeba is up with them he calls for me. I take my second step and bullets hit my leg. Seems like a large hammer hit me, I sure fell backwards hard. I'm on my left side and I feel my right arm is kind of warm & took a look the German was still shooting at me, I lay flat and look were he was. I'm not certain how close

he was but it looked like about 10 yds. away and a little below me. I wished I had a tommy gun now. I'd shoot at him. Lucky he didn't move his gun a little lower or it would got me all over my body. I guess I was lucky. Some one lets him have it with a grenade. Probably got him cause He stops firing. I tell Sgt. Takeba I'm hit, they bandage my foot and Tug and Skini (Sekine) carries] me back. It's slopy & rocky so they have a hard time carrying me. Lt. Kim sends for more men, 1st Platoon is sent. Can't locate our medic man so Shikni goes to another company & gets an aid man. He gives me mofin to ease the pain. He can't do anything for me cause its dark. They take me to B Co. area and lives me in hole made of rocks.

Sekine gives me a German blanket to keep warm. He also goes and gets my raincoat. I can hardly move pain comes up to my hip. My back starts hurting also cause there's lots of rocks which I couldn't get out. I get another shot of mofin and goes to sleep.

Next morning 1st Platoon comes back and I hear they cleaned Germans out.

I was only man hit that nite. Germans starts shelling us and then counter-attacks. Our boys mow them down & captures a lot of prisoners. 1st battalion comes up on the mt.

We cleaned out & get a terrific barrage from Germans. I could see every shell burst. Can't imagine anyone could come out of that barrage. We get more shelling the whole day, they start

throwing air bursts. Waianae gets hit by one air burst. He dies a little later. Hears Enemoto & Piwee also gets killed.

Asai from 1st squad is also killed. Shell land close by my hole, thought it sure got Shimazu. Rocks and dirt falls on me. Thats too close for me, wish they could get me out, but its impossible.

Sniper bullets is flying around. I have 4 cans of ration from day before but can't seem to eat. Some of 1st platoon boys go for water on next mountain and they fill up my canteen. They are called up forward.

I'm all alone expect for D company a little to my left. Fighting is not far away on mountain. Germans counterattack again. I see Capt. Mizuha & Lt. Drolet going around giving the boys a lot of fight.

I sure admire these two officers. Lt. Marzano our company commander now is probably deep in some hole, what a man. Our boys again mow the Germans down & take more prisoners. Nite and Germans throw more shells and screaming meanies. They sure have a ghostly sound. Our artillery is right below & is firing away. First time they ever got so close to front line. I know our boys don't have any rations & water. My leg is hurting & I feel worse. I wonder when they'll get me & other wounded out. Morning more shells come over. I see Takeba & Takaki go for water on next mountain. German observation post spot them & throw a terrific barrage. I can see them running back with canteens in hand & shell bursts

following them. Its a miracle they didn't get hit. I hear they are collecting the wounded and are going to take them down. Nobody comes for me. Lucky Lt. Drolet was passing by & I yelled to him, he carried me to where they were assembling the wounded. 9a.m. we start down, 2 boys try to carry me but its hard cause the trail is down & slanted. I try to hold on to them but after every 5 steps I just can't go anymore. Couldn't eat so before I started down I gave my rations to D company boys. Sure is weak. I tell the boys I'll try & slide down on one foot. Its slow but it's the only way I could get going. I'm the last man and falling farther back

every time. There's still lots of mine so couldn't lay any old place. Every time there's a little level ground the 2 boys carry me. I was so tired I laid on a trip wire but didn't know it. Lucky it was tripped below. Three quarters way down they send a stretcher for me, what a relief. Its 12p.m. noon before we got to battalion aid. Took three hrs. to get down. Farm house is used as battalion aid station right on outskirts of Pozzile. They dress my wound & Chaplain gives us hot coffee & warm C rations. Boy, it sure tastes good. Germans are shelling the town. We could see the shells bursting from the window. Hope they don't hit this house. We sweat the rest

of day out. Hear Captain Kawasaki was hit on mt. also. So only Captain Kainuma is left. Before nite more walking wounded come in. Lt. Kim is one of them. Hear one of our Lts stepped on mine & was killed. The walking wounded is sent back to evacuation hospital. They don't want us to go yet cause plenty of shells and sniper bullets is flying around. As soon as it gets dark they take us to ambulances. Our guns are going off right Close by and makes me shiver every time it fires. One more day up in the mountain and I sure would have gotten shell shock. Ambulance drivers are also very scared, I don't blame them. We move back & after awhile is safe from any

shells so we smoke, what a relief
to get back. Its very dark so I
don't know were we are going, I
didn't care. After much riding we get
to Evacuation Hospital. Learn later
it's the 15 evacuation hospital.
Very cold nite but I felt satisfied.
Get my Purple Heart there.
Nov. 8 – morning & its raining.
There's a German wounded next
to me and one at end of tent.
He sure is a big guy, he got bull-
et wound thru both his legs. He
asks me for a cigarette, after
thinking awhile felt sorry for
him & gave him one. Nurses and
ward boys here are alright. My
leg is giving me lots of pain. Ger-
man asks me for another cigar-
ette, I give him a package but

he won't take but one. They take him out & I never see him again. Later they take me to pray. The food here is good & I sure eat a lot. Everyone who came off the line does. They start taking the boys to operation room. I see Hayakawa two beds away, he sure is hit bad and is suffering like hell. Nite they take me to operation. I see one of our boys from Headquarters on table. They just got thru with him, he's fast asleep. They put me on table and doctor look at my wound and asks when I was hit. Told him two nites ago and the way he said what made me scared. Thought they might have to cut my leg off. They gave me the needle thru my arm

and out I went. Next time I got up it was morning. I felt better although I still had a lot of pains.

Nov. 9 – afternoon they take me to Caserta to 16 Evacuation Hospital. Its in building so it is warm. Sure had a long miserable ride to this place. Hope I don't get anymore rides – like this one. Met Sgt Mcfallen from 168 regiment. He got hit on foot at Venatro, nice guy.

Nov. 10

They put a cast on my leg. Yoshimoto who was hit on same mt. comes to visit me. A shrapnel cut his nose in half but they sewed it up again. He feels okay, he tells me Sekiya our mail clerk is here also. Good to see some

of our boys.

Nov. 11 – My 29 birthday. they move me to 36 Gen. Hosp. a few miles away.

It's a 3 story building but elevators are not working so they carry us up 3 stairs.

A captain who could speak Japanese

and private carries me up. They

are very busy here. Captain

tells me they took in about a

thousand patients these past 3

days and they wasn't even settled

here yet. We get spring beds

it's not American beds but its

alright. The nurses here sure

work hard & they really treat

you nice. Only trouble here we

don't get enough to eat. Doctor

cuts my cast and dresses my wound

it looks terrible. Mcfallen is next

to me again. I'm broke so he buys

what I needed. Italian Senioritas work in the wards also, they are alright. Have some fun trying to talk to them. Wrote to my wife that I was hit & also to Michie.

Nov. 18

Doctor told me he is going to send me to Africa. We leave in the afternoon. I don't know if I was glad to go to Africa but after they told me that's were you go before ever they ship you back to States I was glad. They took us to 4th Field hospital near airfield. We pass thru Naples but can't see very well. Food at 4th Field hospital is good. They say tomorrow morning we fly to Bizerte, Africa. Hospital is near airfield.

Nov. 19 – We are load into ambulances right after breakfast. We wait practically the whole day in ambulance before we get on plane. We are loaded on C-47 transport plane, 18 to a plane. Plane starts on runway before we know it we are off the ground. There's one nurse to a plane and she gives us candy. I'm on second layer of stretchers so can see thru window. Mt. Vesuvius is throwing up a lot of smoke and Naples look beautiful. Really a sight from the sky. I could see Isles of Capri in distance. See some of our freighters on the sea. I know there's more than one plane in this convey but can't see the rest. We sight Sicily, the coast

line is sure rocky along Palermo.
We land there after 1-3/4 hrs. Time
sure goes by fast when you fly.
We are to stay here overnite.
The food sure is the best so far
in hospitals. I meet Major Lovell
and we talk for a while. I
sure was glad to see him. He
walks with a cane and says he'll
be going back to fight after awhile.
In room I was there sure was the
worst bunch of fellows shot up I
ever saw. Sure felt sorry for them.

Nov. 20

We fly to Bizerte, Africa.
I don't mind the plane ride.
Red Cross is waiting with dough-
nuts and coffee. They take us
to 64th Gen. Hosp. I don't feel
so good when I see the surr-

ounding country. Looks like a desert. Well I have to stand it I suppose. After a week in one ward they change me to Ward C-4. Never saw a more lively bunch of wounded boys. Meet George Lugin, Maresh, Caplan, Ong and rest of boys. I like it in here better than other ward. We sure have a lot of fun. They make coffee at nite and sing & joke. Miss Desatel is our nurse, she is pretty but thinks she is hot stuff. I don't like her. Been waiting for mail since I was wounded but no mail. Meet Coke & Koizumi and they come and see me once in awhile. They tell me who is here from our Company. Stanley Imamura is here also. Glad to see all of them.

Everyone waiting for their Xmas packages. Some get theirs and they pass it around.

Dec. 28

I get 4 letters from home first since I was hit. Feel a little better. We had turkey for Xmas dinner, not bad. More packages arrive for the boys. Lugin gets the most every time.

Dec. 30

They graft some skin on my wound. After I came back from operating room I get 85 letters. That's the record for letters at one time I guess. I feel very good now. Took me whole afternoon to read all the letters cause the V-mails were hard to read. We have a new nurse Miss Basta and she's really

unreasonable. Want give my nose drops and tells doctor and nite nurse I don't need any. I sure get mad at her. Boys start teasing me every time she comes in. Nite it starts to get very windy and cold. Later it is hailing and we could hear it dropping on tent. Any minute the wind might blow our tent away, hope it don't. First time I ever come across weather like this. I have four blankets and comforter so it keeps me warm.

Jan. 1

We have turkey for New Years dinner. Boys from Quartermaster brings 5 gallons ice cream, boy, we sure go to it. Today strong wind & hail storm continue. Hope our tent holds fast. Sure is cold. We hear rumors

of boys being shipped out. Everyone hopes he makes it.

Jan. 7

Doctor tells me he is going to send me to Casablanca by train. I feel happy but hated to leave the boys back. Funny how I feel this way cause all the time we think of going back to States. Lugin starts giving me whiskey to celebrate. To be socialble I take some and feel lousy & falls asleep.

Jan. 8

Got up at 5:30 a.m. and starts getting ready. We leave at 7 a.m. by train. Say good-bye to the boys, hope I meet a nice bunch like this at next place. We go to Tinja were train is. Sure is a large convoy leaving Bizerte. Waited till 3:30 p.m. before we move, that's

the Army for you. This is a British train and it don't look so good. They have a funny way of talking. Doctors and nurses & ward boys are very nice. Ward boys wants us to call them orderlies. They don't like name of ward boy. Nite its very cold I ask for extra blankets. I got six but still is very cold. Can't get any more. Sweated out this nite. We pass Matuer at nite.

Jan. 9

Breakfast 8:15 a.m. its hard to eat cause the bunks are so close have to lay on side & eat. They say we have one more nite to go. The way this train stops every few minutes we'll never get there. Lunch we have tea for drink, they sure make it sweet for us. Not so bad chow. Evening tea again, just like the English way.

Half hour after dinner they bring us tea again and sandwich, really funny system. At small towns a lot of arab kids come around & the boys sell them cigarettes for \$4 a cartoon. They like American cigarettes so buy all they can. Nite and its cold again.

Jan. 10

Algiers 11:15 a,m, it sure looks beautiful from distance. City built on side of hill and a nice harbor below. Yes, it's a beautiful sight. In harbor there's still a lot of sunken ships. Get to station about 11 p.m. As usual we wait a couple of hours before they take us in hospital a few miles away. While waiting outside hospital there's a tent on fires. They say it's a latrine by the time fire engine

comes it burns down. The way it looks around here I sure hate to stay here. Hope it won't be long before they send us out. We sleep on bunks and close together. Martini is next to me and his cast sure smells bad. The food here is alright. Nurses are nice. Nites are very cold.

Jan. 13

We are leaving at 1:30 p.m. today. Hope everything goes on schedule. French WACs are driving the ambulances. Some are very nice looking. If they had uniforms like our WACs they sure would look better. What a rough ride we get to station. Every time she shift the gears it makes a lot of noise. The way she makes those turns makes us hold our freight & we holler.

She turns around & says are you boys alright, we say yes. Every time we holler she says are you boys alright. That's the only word she knows I think. Oh! boy! She is nice tho'.

After waiting the whole afternoon we leave at 8:30 p.m. Good-bye Algiers, hope I don't see you again, once is enough. We are on American train now and its better, not crowded and its warm. They say its only overnite ride to Oran.

In winter the countryside looks pretty nice cause the grass are green.

Jan. 14

We reach Oran at 10:15 a.m. Take us to 43rd Gen. Hosp. Don't looks so good but at least they have brick buildings. They put

me in one. Thought we were going to Casablanca but looks like we are stuck here. Doctor take my cast off, it sure feels good.

They give me crutches and I can move around. Sure feels good after 2 months in bed. I get a brace for my foot. This ward is sure quiet at nites not like the 64th. Make new friends - George Wintzel from the 36th Div. home New Orleans. John Percel – Oklahoma. Nurses here are lousy, lazy. They sure have a racket. Yasui A company comes in ward. He lost a leg at Cassino, poor kid but he smiles and feels happy to be back. George Ikegama, Mucha, and later Aoki from B company & myself here. We get together some-

times and chew the fat. Gora comes to visit us from Canistle. He is going back to duty. I don't like his attitude. Lots of our boys come in for trench foot. They don't stay long and go back to duty, crazy guys. They should have waited till it gets warm. It sure is very cold at nites here and Italy must be worst. I admire those guys but they should have waited till warm weather set in. Mucha goes back to duty, hate to see him go. George is Z1 but I wonder if he'll go back to States. We hear of Arcadia coming in Oran to take back patients to States. Everyone anxious to know who's going back. I'm sunk I don't even know if I'm Z1. One nite I take a look in my records and

find I'm Z1 boy, am I glad. One day
an officer comes in and calls names
so they could change their money.
My name is called can't say how
happy I am. I have a terrible cold
but don't let the doctor know. Nothing
going to stop me from making this trip.
Day we leave I'm sick like a dog.

Mar. 6

This is the day. I'm so sick I
can't eat but go to mess hall
just the same. We leave at
1 p.m. As soon as I board the
boat I lay on bed and try to sleep.
Tell nurses to give me aspirin.
I have fever and feel sick a hell.
Hope they don't take me off the boat.
Can't seem to get the doctor to see
me, everyones busy I guess. Nurses
on boat are very nice and they sure

work, not like nurses at 43rd.

We get back rub twice a day, the food is good, best so far. Arcadia is a nice boat. Meet Morito in same ward, later Shimazu comes to see me. Sure glad to see him. says there's about 7 of our boys on boat. We leave Oran tomorrow morning. Wish they'd leave now sooner the better. We see lots of French troops heading for boats.

Mar. 7

Boat pulls away from dock 10 a.m. Every one says he hopes he don't see Africa again. I hope so to. Cough a lot but fever is down. I stay in bed. Sea very calm, every one talks about how lucky he is on boat heading for home. We have music on

boat and later had movies. Lots of cokes and candy on boat. We get cartoon of cigarettes. Nite sleep in peace, sea still calm.

Mar. 8

Sea getting rough. My cold is better, but cough a lot. With all the good food I can't eat. No appetite. We count every minute, they say it takes 11 days to Charlestown S.C. Read books to pass time away.

Mar. 9

Sea is rough now, don't feel good and cold makes it worse. I get GI's what a life, what next. Lucky I'm near toilet. Lights go out at 9:30 p.m. Can't sleep the pass nites cause I cough to much. First time I have cold & cough like this. Percer is very sick, he sure feels disgusted, I don't

blame him.

Mar. 10

Sea better than yesterday. Still have cough but I have a good appetite for the first time. Met Shimazu, never thought he was on board, glad to see him.

Mar. 11

Seas very rough. Lots of boys get sick. My cough is still bad. We have movies tonite Theodra Goes Wild. Good show. Play cards with Bonaly.

Mar. 12

Sea gets rougher, waves comes up as high as port hole. My cough is getting better every day.

Mar. 13

Sea is still rough. I have a headache hope I'm not getting seasick. They say we get to States

on Saturday, five long days more. Boys talk about what they will do when they get back. Many crazy ideas they have.

Mar. 14

Sea is better. Today I feel better than ever. Percer asks me to come home to Oklahoma with him. I refuse cause I don't know how his parents will feel. We have bingo game. I win the first game can't believe it. We have lots of fun. Four more days to go.

Mar. 15

Rough seas, worst day so far. I have a headache, what a poor sailor I am. 4 p.m. I feel better when I get home I'll never board a ship again. Three more days to go. We get music from the States and even the latest magazines.

Mar. 16

Sea calm this morning, boat is slowing down, every one gripes. They want to go fast, can't wait to see the good U.S.A. Two more days to go.

Mar. 17

Sea is calm. We must be getting close to shore. Can't wait to see land. 5 p.m. Sea gets rough again. Rumors fly thick, we reach shore 10 a.m. tomorrow. One more nite to go. What a feeling to get back.

Mar. 18

This is the day, everyone excited sea calm. 7:10 a.m. still no land in sight. 10:45 land in sight what a feeling to see the U.S.A. again. The land just looks beautiful to me. As we near the dock a band starts playing. I could

have cried right there, its so wonderful to be back, a band playing the old familiar songs. We dock at 1 p.m. can't wait to get off the boat. Everyones tries to come to port hole. 2 p.m. still on boat, takes time to unload I guess. As we get off and get on ambulance there Red Cross who gives us milk & ice cream, magazines. Milk sure tastes good. 5 p.m. We get to Stark Gen. Hosp. Really a nice hospital beds are Very soft, food very good. Nurses are also very nice. Lots of WACs around here and they sure have a lot of ratings. Some comes around and try to lift our morale.

Mar. 19

Went to Red Cross party

played cards with girls. No fun at all so came back to ward.

Mar. 20

Red Cross show by Shipbuilders. They really are good. Enjoyed the show very much.

Mar. 21

Inspection today. Cold thru morning. They tell us we are to go to hospitals close to home. We wonder if they'll send us to Hawaii. Wini Shaw & Ed Wynn. Very good show. She sang Hawaiian song for me. Got her autograph. She is very pretty but her singing isn't so good. Tall girl.

Mar. 22

Went to dentist to clean my teeth. Have one small cavity. There's a dance for the patients at Red Cross tonite.

The boys sure go to town, some don't even look like they were wounded. I sure wish I could dance this nite.

Mar. 23

Mrs. Smythe comes to take us for a ride thru Charleston. Town not so bad, lots of old beautiful homes of olden times. Stopped at her home and had tea & cake, ice cream. She use to live in Japan before the war. She sure is good in Japanese. Came back at 5 p.m. Other boys drop off in town & I come back. There's show at Red Cross, went to see it but it was lousy.

Mar. 24

Hope we get assigned to hospitals quick. Everyone anxious to leave. I try to go to

town but no dice.

Mar. 26

We are told we are going out tomorrow. I'm to go to Torney Gen. Palm Springs Calif. All our boys are to go there. I'm not so anxious to go there.

Saw movie in afternoon.

Mar. 27

Got up at 5 a.m. had breakfast. Then back to bed again. We leave at 8 a.m. instead of 6:30 a.m. As usual the train didn't leave till 9:30 a.m. There's a WAC band playing at station, they are alright. Pass thru lots of small towns Largest one is Augusta, Georgia. There's University of Medicine in Augusta. Nurse on train tell us she trained there.

Mar. 28

9:30 a.m. we stop at Greenville.
Small town. 5 p.m. We stop at Mobile
and get doughnuts from Red Cross.
Mobile has large waterfront, they
also build boats there. Gulf Port
large town on Coast. We get to
New Orleans 6:45 p.m. I remember
the familiar surroundings. Spent
5 days here on my last furlough.
We play card [sic] to pass time away.

Mar. 27

7:15 a.m. Jennings, then
Lake Charles good size town
in Louisiana. Beaumont, Texa
Large town. Shipbuilding on
River. We come to the Texas flat-
lands, it stretches for miles. Food
hot enough on train. Houston
1:45 p.m. sure is a large town.

Randolph Field Texas, sure
is a big field. San Antonio,
large city. Train stops for fuel.

Mar. 30

Fobin small town. Lots of
Mexican homes. They live in flat
top houses. El Paso, large town. We
stop here about 4 hrs. After El Paso
its hill country. Train runs along the
Rio Grande River. Not much water
in it. We pass Tuscon at nite.

Mar. 31

Yuma, Arizona. 10:45 p.m.
We don't have very far to go.
11:20 a.m. we are in California.
There is the orange orchards
they say they have in California.
We are traveling along chain
of mts. Here at last we see
an orange orchard. 2:45 p.m.

we get to station. Palm Springs is in desert. I don't think I'm going to like lit here. Hospital is former El Mirador Hotel & Army built wards nearby.

Apr. 1

Yes, I don't like it here. Hope I can go to Santa Barbara. Even doctors are not on ball.

Apr. 2

Al Jarvis troupe I don't go to see it. Kind of tired. They say plenty of pretty gals. Beery (?) Sisters come to our ward & sing. They are good. Tom Fukuda A Company is in my ward also.

Apr. 4

Eddie Cantors show over NBC from Plaza theatre. I go to see it, sure was good. Eddie Cantor is tops. Henrick actor guest.

Palm Springs small place but nice.

Things cost a lot in Palm Springs.

Apr. 5

Shirley Temple comes to visit patients. Didn't recognize her at first, she's grown up but still very cute.

I talk to her & tell her I saw her when she came to Honolulu. Got her autograph. Around the hotel area its very pretty & the swimming pool is nice. I take P.T. treatments.

Captain Goren is a lousy doctor I hear. They call me the butcher.

Later I think he is nothing but a butcher. Patients scared of him, I don't blame them. Don't feel so strong so stay in ward most of time.

May 2

Paul Lukas comes for a visit.

I feel better now so go to

theatre and see him. Surprise to find he is bald on top part of his head. He is alright though. Seems that Red Cross ladies don't like us after they know we are Japanese, even at Charlestown.

May 7

Al Jarvis comes back again. Bring Ken Baker & orchestra. Really a good show. We have reconditioning Program. They go to far so I don't like it. Don't make any difference if you can't stand too much. If you don't go, they court-martial you. Even ward boys here are stools. Getting to be more like a jail than a hospital. Hope no more of our boys come here. So far Raymond Furuta, Tom Fukuda, Shimazu, Takeda, Shiramizu, Umetsu,

Miyamoto, Tani, Hirokawa & Tani and two other fellow: Shinyama is also here & Roy Miyashiro. Our boys can't even get 5 day passes like white soldiers.

June 8

Hirokawa & I go to Los Angeles with four haoles to Breakfast Club. Kind of scared to go but later find I'm glad I went. On way we see lots of cherry orchards & the Col. Thompson buys some for us. He is a swell egg. Los Angeles its good to see cars & people & large building again. I feel wonderful.

We go to Biltmore Hotel to spend nite. Meet Boyd Gibson who is to take us around. He sure is a swell man. Take us to our rooms & says he'll come

back for us at 7 p.m. This hotel isn't so good as I heard it was. Well its good enough. 7 p.m. Gibson comes for us & take us to his home for dinner at his home. Meet his wife & two kids. We get refreshments. They live in outskirts of Los Angeles. He knows a lot of Japanese people & makes Hirokawa & me feel at home. We have dinner boy it sure is good. Our first home cooked dinner. Tuna, potato salad my favorite. I sure ate a lot. Later he took us to Ken Murrays Blackouts of 1944. Marie Wilson & Jack Mulhall is also in it. Boy is sure is a swell show. Plenty of pretty girls & also plenty of dirty jokes. First time I see such a show. Ken Murray

is really good. Marie Wilson is much prettier than in movies & what a form. She gets dumped just like in pictures. 2 hrs of laughs. After show we walk around town for awhile then go back to hotel.

June 9

Boyd Gibson comes for us at 7:30 a.m. to go to breakfast club. What a large club, people come & shake our hands. Surprise to find so many people who are nice to us. I feel much better. Talked to some of them. After all not all people are bad. We get introduced one by one. Later our pictures are taken for the newspaper. Somehow with all the good things to eat I can't eat. What a crowd they make a lot of noises. Couple

of guests make speeches. We are ready to leave, many people come & shake our hands. After all I'm not sorry I came. We go back to hotel & get ready to go back to hospital. Wait for Col. Thompson he comes 45 minutes late. We started back & on way have our lunch. Los Angeles is very cool at nites. When we get near Palm Springs & we can feel heat. Back to the hospital routine again.

June 10

Spend spare time playing pinochle with Bruce Silks & Bonaly. In fact we go everywhere together. They home in Los Angeles. Silks fought in Bougnaville, wounded in shoulder.

Paul Lukas comes for a visit again brings along Kay Williams. She is very pretty but kind of under-

weight. We are swimming at that time.

Paul Lukas comes and sit next to me.

Says he hate to come with women.

Mar. 11

Meet Gloria Stuart face to face
but don't know its her. Bonaly also
can't recognize her. She have lots
of freckles & don't lot like in movies.
But as usual these actresses have
a beautiful figure.

Ginny Sims comes to hospital
but I miss her. They say she is
very beautiful. Wish I could have
seen her.

Al Jolson comes to hospital
& sings at theatre. He is alright
didn't like his singing in movies
but in person I really
like it. He sings his old songs.
They have a lot of USO shows

that come here but most of it I don't like it. Shirley Winters comes with one troupe. She isn't very pretty but not bad.

Its terrible hot now here. I don't go to movies cause its too hot in theatre. Make a lot of rugs to send home. Made one for Violet & Hunts.

See Bill Tilden play tennis, he is good. I don't know much about tennis.

We hear that the boys from the 100th will be transfered to Texas. I'm glad to get out of here, the other boys are also glad. I don't think anyone likes it here. Captain Ashler is a poor excuse for a doctor. With my bad leg he wants to send me to general duty. They sent Tani out to regular duty with a limp. Miyamoto asks to be sent

out, he gets it. Doctors are glad to get rid of patients, don't make any difference if he is okay or not. Umetsu goes to Mill Creek, don't see how they send him out there. I'll never forget these doctors here.

June 30

We leave for Texas on the 8:25 p.m. train. Say good bye to friends. I'm only one going to El Paso, Roy only one going to San Antonio. Furuta, Shinyama & Eddie go to Temple. Hope I meet some of our boys at El Paso. The train is very slow. We get to El Paso 6 hrs. late. 2 a.m. in morning. Nobody to meet me, I'm at a lost. Phone hospital they come for me. By time I get to bed its 3:45 a.m. I'm sure sleepy. Go to sleep wondering how its going to be here, hope its

not like Palm Springs.

July 1

Very nice place, nice lawn & trees around hospital. Hospital two story high. I feel that its going to be better here. They don't make you work & exercise so much. Its up to you if you want to go to classes. Doctors here are on the ball. They check over your case thoroughly. They move me to ward 10. Captain Basom very swell doctor. Easy to talk to him. He asks me if I had a sick leave I said no. He always asks me if I want one 30 day leave. They have swimming pool here & also bowling alley. I go to swim some days.

Its getting hot here so I ask doctor for a leave. I start the leave on Aug. 2nd. Well its La Crosse

for me. Kitagawa don't want to go so I go alone. Hope I meet some of the boys there. Tod Doc Hunt I was coming also Violet. Intend to stay at Hunts for a while then go to Violets. Mrs. Gent Alton wants me to come over. Don't know if I can or will go there.

Aug. 2

Leave El Paso at 6:30 p.m. train ride to Kansas City is terrible coach hot as hell even in the nite we sweat. Spend nite & day on train to Kansas City. Trains sure are crowded everywhere. Get to Kansas about 7 p.m. Wait about hal & hour then get train for St. Paul. Train is better, coach is nice & cool. One nite ride to St. Paul. Get to St. Paul about 9 a.m. Wait for train about half hour then catch the local for La

Crosse. Country here is very pretty.
Green fields & forests & nice rivers.
Get to La Crosse about 1 p.m. & very
hungry. Drop off at South Station.
Boy its good to be back in La Crosse
after so long. Really nice country.
Call Doc Hunt & he sends a car for me.
Get to his office & meet Jean his office
girl. Very pretty. Sure glad to see
Doc. Met him only once before I left.
He calls his wife & we talk while
I wait for her to come for me.
After awhile she comes & this is
my first meeting with her & Mary.
She is very nice & also daughter
Mary. We go to her home on
North side Avon St. They have
a nice home, I wonder if I'll feel
at home here. They give me Mary's
room. She sleeps in other room

with girl name Aleda. I take a shower & clean up. Gee! it's good to be in a home again. I call up Violet but nobody home. I call Evelyn & asks her who this is, she haven't forgotten my voice & guess it the first time. She says Lloyd is home & want me come up for dinner. I promise I'll come later. Doc comes home & we have a nice long talk. He asks me about my experiences. My first dinner in La Crosse, Mrs Hunt is a very good cook. After dinner we sit & talk & later take a ride in the car. Every nite we go for a ride then talk awhile. Some times we get a sandwich out in town & some times we make some. I can sleep better at nites here, nice bed &

its cool. Doctor asks me if I want to go fishing on Sunday. Sunday we go to Camp McCoy first & see an officer. The camp sure looks deserted. But its good to see our old stomping grounds again. Stop & talk to MP at gate he remembers the 100th Inf. The countryside along the way to McCoy is really beautiful. We fish near camp didn't know there were any fishes in this river. Many soldiers with their girl friends come to river for walks. Doc & Lt. go up river I go down river. Sure plenty of mosquitoes. I catch only one small one, Doc catch six large ones & Lt. 2. Most of fishes are rainbow trout & bass. We quit about 3:30 p,m, & head for home. Mrs. Hunt fries fishes for dinner. The fishes really taste

good. After a week I move to Goldbecks. Hated to leave the Hunts. Told them I'll come again for a visit.

Goldbecks have dog name Tigg is he a rascal.. He is so friendly & likes to play. Violet works in the mornings & Bill goes to work at 3 p.m. I usually stay home till after dinner & then go out. Bill takes a nap before he goes to work. I usually don't come home for dinner. Go out with other boys dancing. Made chicken hekka at Mrs. Anfensons. Poki & I cook the hekka. Frank Morihar (?), Raymond Furuta & Robert Shimazu also at party. There's about four or five married women. One sailor with wife. Boy, we sure ate a lot, tastes

really good. We put a little pork, celery, green pepper, mushrooms, onions, & get soy sauce. These people here sure can drink. They also crack a lot of dirty jokes, first time I ever met any women so rough. I get a kick listening to them. One nite we have a dance in basement. More of a drinking party, I take one glass. We have phonograph records for music. Same bunch of ladies, don't know where there husbands are only 2 present. Midnite we have hamburgers & pickles, boy it sure taste good. Shinyama, Poki & me only soldiers. Don't know how they could drink so much. The whole bunch killed a lot of whisky this nite. We quit about 2 a.m. Spend my after noons down at the park near Miss. It's nice & quiet there. One day

a storm comes & I get caught in it. I got all wet & had to call cab to take me to store & buy a whole suit. My other one was in laundry. Cost me \$9.50 for the whole suit. Went to picnic with the Goldbecks. Margaret & Dotty sisters where there, Falkes & another group of relatives I forgot their names. Didn't have a good time on picnic dead bunch. Meet Mr Heinke & family boy, can she talk. Showed me all the gifts she received from Hawaii. Its enough to run a curio shop, she sure had a lot of sourvenirs. Meet Danielson family. Really nice people, friends of Toshie Miyamoto, Lahaina boy. Velma former girl friend of his, is very pretty. Have dinner at their home one evening. Went to Falkes for

dinner a couple of times. Corinne & Kay really grown up. Evelyn is same, Lloyd looks older. He is going away again in a few weeks. Meet Gladys Rasdahl another girl in love with one of our boys. Intend to marry him when he comes back. I think she is really a very nice girl, 28 years old. Not like the other wahines. Took her to show one nite. Went to picnic with her. Meet Mrs Muth & had dinner at her home. Raymond & Shimazu stay at their home. Many people ask us about different boys they knew. Many want us to come over for dinner. We go to the Buffs one nite for winny roast. Goldbecks & Falkes, Raymond & I. Its beautiful from the Bulffs.

Last nite in La Crosse I have dinner at the Hunts. They have steaks & very large ones to. First time I had so large a steak since I came back to States. Really a wonderful dinner. After dinner Doc takes me to Mrs Muth home. They are going to take Raymond & Bob & me dancing. Doc meet Bob & Raymond. Mrs. Muth takes us to Minnesota to dance. Mrs. Muth's 3 nieces go along for our partners. Margaret, whose husband is overseas, Beverly youngest niece & Jeanne, who parents live in Minnesota not far from La Crosse. She is my partner & very good dancer. Beverly is good at jitter bug. Sure had a wonderful time but it ended all to soon. They want me to ask for an extension but I

decide I better go back. Tomorrow
I leave at 1 p.m. Say good bye
to everyone I know. Violet takes
me to station. Said good bye to
Bill before he went to work. Sure
hate to go. Mrs Muth & Bob &
Raymond come to station to say
good bye. I kiss Violet good-bye,
she is just like a sister to me. Board
the Zepher & its good-bye for good.
St. Paul I have a 3 hr. wait so go into
into town. It is raining so I don't
go very far. Sure is a large city.
Overnite ride to Kansas City.
Had to wait four hrs for train
so I go into town for dinner.
Kansas City is built on a hill
& a very large place. I don't go
far & come back to station
to wait for train. The trains

are always full of solders. Train ride from Kansas City to El Paso isn't so bad cause its cooler. I even catch a cold. Got to El Paso about 11:30 a.m. had chop Suey for dinner then came back to hospital.

Doctors tell me they may operate on my leg. I feel dissappointed, thought I could go home. Kitagawa might go home any day & I want to go home with him. 3 weeks now since I came back from furloough but still no operation, hope they hurry up. Have gum trouble & sore teeth. I sure get all kinds of trouble. Can't eat with my teeth sore. Doctor tell me to lay off smoking for awhile. I try but it sure is hard to quit.

Taking treatments for my nose.
Take shots in arm twice a week.
Don't seem to do any good.
Seems like this country is bad
for nose trouble. Lots of people
have nose trouble. Visited
Juarez, Mexico twice. Not a large
town, but lots of people go there
to shop. We pay 2 cents to
across the border & 2 cents coming
back. Must change all our money
to \$2 bills before going to Juarez.
Plenty of nylon stockings in Juarez
but it's the darrest place to shop.
Almost every store have different
prices on goods. Best not to buy
right away. Plenty of souvenirs
in Juarez. Some parts of town
smells bad, just like Oran, Africa.
Even natives look like Arabs.

Buy stocking for wife & table cloth
for my parents & Doc Hunt. They
say Juarez is a wild town so we
don't stay in town after dark.
Anyway theres nothing to do, if you
don't drink. Many nite clubs there.
Don't feel like eating anything
there, it don't look sanitary. Hope I
can see a bullfight before I leave
here. Some of Mexican girls are very
pretty but they say they are wild.
Better to keep away from them. Many
soldiers have been robbed & beaten
in Juarez. Can't see why they don't
teach these Mexicans sanitation.

Kitagawa got a discharge that
leaves me alone. He is waiting for
his papers from Washington. I'm
losing my patience, why don't they
do something, just wait day after

day. End of Sept. will be 10 months in hospital for me. Sure getting disgusted of hospital. Guy Kibbee comes to visit the patients. He looks older than in movies. Other than that he looks the same. First movie actor I've seen come to this hospital. He was a theatre last nite and crack jokes – he sure was funny. Got his autograph.

Sunday Oct. 1

Took Xray of chest looks like I'm getting a discharge. Doctor calls me into office I tell him what about my leg. Told him I'd like to fix it if possible. I'll see the nerve Doctor first. Wonder if I'm making a mistake. I hate to suffer in later years, so want to fix it now. But it seems like they don't have nerve Doctors here they say.

Oct. 8

Have interview with nerve doctor, tell him of my leg. He says nerves are healing that's why it bothers me. No word so far of going before board. Kitagawa still here & cussing like hell. If I get discharge hope I don't wait so long.

Oct. 11

Went before the board. I get a CDD But will have to wait just like Kitagawa. Hope some miracle happen & we can both go home soon. I move to ward 19 CDD ward. Six barracks full of guys waiting for their CDD.

Oct. 17

Kay Kyser & band give a show. Really are good. Georgie Carroll his wife not with him.

Oct. 18

Al Jolson comes to hospital, saw

him at Palm Springs. He is good as before.

Oct. 25

Still sweating out the trip for home. Getting disgusting everyday. 30 guys leave for home everyday. I see them come and go. Kitagawa getting disgusted also. We are 2 Sad Sacks. Everyone goes home expect us. Haven't gone to El Paso 2 weeks now. Cold & cloudy today, it sure looks like rain. I'll probably see a white Xmas again the way things are going.

Nov. 4 Kitagawa gets his orders mine doesn't come thru, am I sick. He leaves in a few days for Station Hosp. at Fort Lawton, Seattle.

Nov. 9 Kitagawa leaves for Seattle, its so lonesome now, I'm at a loss. Have a harder time to sleep now.

Word comes thru that I leave
for Seattle on Monday. I'm
the happiest guy at the hospital.

Nov. 9 Ask for special pass to
Juarez to shop. Adjutant says
okay so I go to Juarez tomorrow.

Nov. 10 Send telegram to
wife I'm on my way home.

Receive birth day telegram from
wife. Every thing is wonderful now.

Nov. 11 Leave El Paso for Seattle
Kind of Lonesome by myself but
I can stand it I guess. Officer
& wife on berth below me. Very nice
couple, I feel better in their comp-
any. Train cold at nite. One thing
I'm not sorry I left El Paso.

officer & wife leaves me at Los An-
geles, I have 6 hrs. wait. Don't
know what to do. Call up Bonalys

home but nobody there. Talk to Mr. Gibson over phone. Later went to movie with a soldier. Los Angeles getting cold. Sure are a lot of people & soldiers traveling on trains. So far food on train is very good. I have 2 more nites to go.

Leave Los Angeles at 6 p.m. My berth partner is civilian Tech.

Adviser going to Russia. Wears Army uniform just like officer but no bars. A very nice guy. Farther North we get it gets colder. Next stop & transfer is Portland. It sure is cold there. Too cold to walk around so I spent my time in station. We have 3 hrs. wait. Wondering if Kitagawa is still at Lawton. Seat partner is ward boy at Lawton so after getting

to Seattle. I go with him to hosp. Felt sorry I went with him after I boarded bus, too many people & me with a barracks bag. Seattle is foggy & wet.

At hospital I meet up with Kitagawa & 2 more boys, Hasegawa & Nakano. Really good to see them. Both lost their legs, sure feel sorry for them. I sure am a Lucky guy. Hospital doctors & nurses the nicest I come across so far. Food also is the best. Get pass to go & visit Seattle. Town is built on hillside go to show & have chop suey dinner. Rest of stay we go to Service club in Camp. Theres 14 of us now from Hawaii all anxious to get home. Word comes thru that 4 of us leave on Dec. 9. Other boys disappointed but I guess, all can't go at once

Write a letter to wife that I'm on my way home again, this time is the last time. Really feels good to know you'll be going home. It's getting much too cold here.

We board a large transport, many soldiers are also boarding boat. They are going to war & we are going home. Bet they are wondering if they'll even come back. I once had that feeling. Many of them are young boys. We have a nice room on board ship. They even bring our meals to us. It won't be so bad on this trip with nice beds & room like this. We spend one nite on board ship before they pull out. We just can't wait to get started & is always asking someone when we are sailing & when are we getting to Hawaii. Meet Kelly, former 298th soldier he is working on boat. He tells

me Lt. Trask is also on board. Heard he was at Lawton while I was there. We talk of our days at 298th. Sure is good to talk of old times. Tells us if we need anything just asked for it. Chaplain also comes to see us, very nice man, name of Davis. Also a lot of other officers come & see us. Lt. Trask comes to see us, he sure is the same old guy. It sure has been a long time since I saw him. Tells me he has 2 kids now, he sure works fast. Says he shoots live ammunition. Talk of our days on the beach at Waihole. Tells me of the 298th. We get sick as soon as boat hits rough waters. I am sick first 2 days out & feels better after that. Lt. Traska asks for some rice for us instead of potato & bread. We get any-

thing we want, just like kings. Chaplain tells us to come to movie on boat, he has nice seats for us. Sure is a nice chaplain, everyone likes him. Today is 6th day out sea is rough. I feel a little sick every time it gets rough. We are traveling in convoy so is going very slow. We hear all kinds of time we are going to get to Honolulu. Well at last we get the right day we are to reach Honolulu, Friday is the day. We get up early & get ready to see Honolulu & home. Chaplain comes & tells us if we want to go on the bridge we could get a better view from there. Nice of Captain of ship to let us go on bridge. We get a thrill when we see the Island. Green mts. stretching for miles. We pick up the familiar sights we missed

so long. Koko Head, Waimanalo, Diamond Head & last Waikiki Beach. It sure is a beautiful sight. We wait outside Honolulu for harbor pilot to guide ship in. It seems like ages before we start in. Aloha Tower stands out. Many new docks Army built. Say good-bye to Captain of ship & Chaplain Davis really nice people. When I left Islands I wondered if I ever was going to see these sights again. I made the trip back home. Ambulance come for us, we pass thru town. It sure is crowded & looks dull, need painting other than that it's the same. Yes, this is home for me, my home. Go to hospital, former St. Louis High School. First thing I did was call my wife. Thought I knew what to say to her but it just didn't come out, was too happy to hear her

voice again after 2-1/2 yrs. Says she's coming to see me, just can't wait to see her again. She comes at 6 p.m. She's the same girl I left behind. Its just to wonderful to see & hold her again, we have so much to say to her