

Dear Gang

Tues. Feb. 16, 45

Woe is us!! Woe is us!!!! My leave has been cancelled. In spite of the fact that the colonel had approved the date and I had even bought my ticket, the general sent out a directive that no leaves were to be issued during division maneuvers. This takes place from Feb. 22 to approximately March 14. If I am lucky, and I think I shall find this out in a few days, I will be allowed my leave then. I believe that the big maneuvers will start April 12, and if I don't get a leave shortly after March 14 I won't get one until corps maneuvers are over, which would be in June.

Well I finally saw Kawasaki. We met at a school in offensive gas warfare which we have been compelled to attend. The classes have been very offensive, and like most gases, stinky. I talked to him for about 10 minutes between classes and learned the following.

He and Virgil Plessinger were at the hospital in Pearl Harbor for quite some time before Dec. 7. They were very chummy and had swell times together. Both are married, as Ben probably knows, Virg to a girl from Cincy named Mart. After Pearl Harbor Incident Mrs. Plessinger returned to the U.S. to have a baby under the care of Dick Bryant and for some reason the baby died. Kawasaki had been in private practice for a year when he entered the army a little over 2 years ago. He worked at the hospital in Pathology and was promoted to Capt. a recommendation for Majority was already in for him, with the promise that he would be made head of the lab with the rank of Lt. Col. when the Jap battalion was formed and he was plucked from his sinecure and made battalion surgeon. This freezes him in the position of Capt. and keeps him in the field in a battalion aid station. It certainly is a tough break. His wife came over with him and is now in Cincy.

Virgil is still in Hawaii and is a Major. Walter Cook, a classmate of mine, is also in Hawaii. I'm sure you remember him. He was a screwball who joined the army immediately after finishing his internship. Kawasaki says the army has tamed him down and straightened him out some and he is now a Lt. Col.

We didn't talk much about the Pearl Harbor incident but I'm hoping to have him out with us for dinner Sunday; and I expect to learn a lot about it then. He did tell me that not a single case that was brought into the operating room alive was lost. They had no cases of gas gangrene that developed, although they had 10 cases from which they cultured gas bacilli. However these responded to sulfanilamide and X-ray therapy. x

I told him where you were, Ben, and that you were hoping for active service. He said you were nuts; that it was hell; and that he would have to write you and see that you didn't make any foolish applications.

Leo, write me and let me know when you expect to get your leave.

Chip, Ben, and Louise - ignore the previous plans I was trying to arrange and I'll let you know just as soon as I can just when and if I get my leave.

Elaine is much better after her bout with the bilateral otitis. That is all except her skin condition.

Well it's midnite, but I just had to get this written to straighten out the mess as quickly as possible.

Love to all of you.

Walt.