

Pvt Morio Arthur Kitagaki  
Admitting Office  
Station Hospital,  
Camp Grant, Illinois

May 1, 1942  
After a Torrential Spring  
Shower and Intermittent Sunshine.

Dear Mr. Inglis: also to the Plymouth Congregational Church.

Thank you ever so much for your letter of April 28, 1942. I appreciate it very much. I don't expect lengthy letters from friends as I know they are just as busy as I in working, doing our duty so that our democratic way of living will continue after the war is over. I do and would like to receive and acknowledgement though it may be just a postal card as then I shall know that the mail did not go astray.

I am glad to know that you are travelling and carrying out your plans even in trying times like this. I do hope that you will be able to find places for loyal Americans to go to school. Only through education can tolerance and understanding be created.

Grayce and I plan to be married on the evening of June 6, 1942 at St. Paul's Chapel, "The Chapel in the Woods", amidst trees, squirrels, rabbits, and birds! By the way the Chaplain who would marry us is now in San Francisco. I received a card from him. His name is Chaplain Gary Bousman, 1st Lt. He is at the Guest House, Fort Mason, San Francisco, California. He is a Congregational minister too! Could you phone him to drop in to see you, or my folks. He could give you first hand news about Camp Grant. Let me know how you come out on this.

I have been in touch with Chaplain Bousman, while he was here almost daily during my Basic Training period up to the last few minutes of his leaving. He was our Battalion Chaplain, and also the Chaplain at one time for the Station Hospital. Through him I have not missed any Sunday Church service since January 6, 1942, save 2. The first was on account of quarantine for everybody, the other time was when I had duty and a mission to accomplish. The first time at camp here, I "dragged" 17 men to evening Vesper Service! Many problems that men had that came to my attention I directed either to Chaplain Bousman, the Protestant Chaplain, or to the Catholic group or even to the Christian Science groups. My own problems have not been so easy to meet, but I rejoice at the fact that I have Grayce with me. I'm getting on as well as one can on a Buck Private's salary, after deducting, insurance, laundry, it leaves just about half of what we should receive. Transportation has cost 20¢ per day to see Grayce daily, but it is worth it!

The station hospital is little over a year old. Many men have just received their 1st class private's rating! This length of waiting has tended to break down the morale of some men to the attitude of, "What the hell is the use of doing one's best." unquote!

I don't know what the advancement set up is in other camps, but as far as the Station Hospital is concerned all are treated equally. General Will is the highest authority in this Camp Grant, personally met and conversed to Grayce on the day that she arrived. He assured her that all men had would be given equal opportunity to advance. He cited that Grayce and I should make an example of ourselves. This is a big order. I'm going to carry it out. As a result of this war, our business of two generations has been destroyed. This is an unfortunate war where even the innocent through circumstances

To Mr Inglis

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beyond their control must suffer. THIS SITUATION I HOPE WILL BE REMEDIED BY GIVING CITIZENSHIP TO ALL THAT CAN QUALIFY AS LOYAL AMERICANS. This is denied at the present time for those aliens from the orient.

One thing I shall never lose, no matter what happens is my FAITH IN PEOPLE.

Thank you ever so much for inviting my mother and sister out for tea. I can only say thank you thru the media of this letter.

Ever since I began my career in the Army of the United States, I've been very, very fortunate. I asked to be placed in the Medical Department. The Medical Soldier's training center is at Camp Grant, Illinois. With 12 others from the Presidio of Monterey California we had our Basic training as a medical soldier. Leadership training opportunity was given me as one of several to be picked out from about 300 in our company to attend Non-Commissioned Officer's Training School. This school I completed successfully. Captain Huth of my old 27th Medical Training Battalion picked out about 25 men and these were selected for potential officer material. I am one of them. My Army I Q is 135. Officer material is picked up from the first two groups of the 5 meantality groups. Mine is in the first of the 5 groups, and first in the two groups from which officer material is picked. People had told me that I was intelligent, I looked into mirrors and never could see any intelligence in myself! Some day I hope to be chosen as a candidate for the Medical Administrative Corps at Carlyle Barracks, Pennsylvania. This is the West Point of the Medical Administrative Corps!

In some ways through the last 10 years training at day and night schools, unfortunately I am better trained than those in authority, that is the non-commissioned officers. So my policy from now on is "Watchful Waiting"; doing the right things at the right time. In civilian life efficient methods are to be awarded rewards, but not in the army. In my department the Admitting Office, where every patient must pass thru, I know of many improvements that can be made, streamlining and speeding the work up, but these things cannot be put into effect until such time that I deserve the power of authority to do so. The army does and will weed out unfit personnel, we swore to defend the United States against all enemies and to obey, this I shall follow out.

All men in the Army are receiving fair treatment. Emotions must not enter in, even dying loved ones realize this and must relinquish thoughts of seeing their soldiers. It is strange but this is the way that the chain of command in the Army operates!

Some men may become discouraged and feel that they are getting a raw deal but menial tasks are just as important for an early victory as those who fought so valiantly at the Bataan Peninsula knowing that the end was near for them. A man in the Army cannot ask for personal favors, or an army could not operate effectively. Let me cite. The Officer of the Day a Captain, left for the service with a sick ailing wife. He lives 60 miles away. He could not get a pass to see her. This is the army. He could jump channels to get the pass, but won't, as this is something he gave up when he was sworn in to the Army. It takes courage and stamina to stay away from an ill ailing wife. This is the army! So you can civilian ways are different than army ways. Thanks for your interest in me, and do see Chaplain Bousman in SF.

Yours sincerely,

*Morio A. Kitagaki*  
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