

Thursday
3:00 PM

May 17, 1945

Dear Mom and Pop,

We moved again yesterday. We left around 2:00 PM and got here around 9:00 PM. We crossed the famous Po River on the way. We near the Alps. We can see them from here, we're almost at the end of the Po Valley. We about 10 miles down from Lake Como. I think you can find that on the map.

The whole 442nd is here. We sleeping in pup tents again. We're on a wide field.

Boys, it's really beginning to get hot. Just sitting down makes me sweat. At night, we just sleep with one blanket and the sides of the tent open. When we get the chance we're going up to Lake Como for a swim.

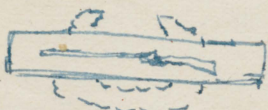
I haven't received any mail since I joined the band but I guess it'll catch up again.

Everyone is saying the reason why they got the 442nd together like this is to sort out the men. The ones who have been over a long time are going home and the ones who just came over are to be occupational troops. I'm with the band so I don't know what's going to happen to us. Anyway one way or the other I'll be over here for a little while yet so don't get discouraged if I don't come home next month. I'm glad I didn't have to go up to the front as a rifleman, aren't you?

I think you remember I went up to the front for a couple of days as a stretcher

leaver. I don't know whether I told you or not, but if I didn't, it's because there was the censors at that time. We were the forward relay point. This means we were pretty near the front lines. About 1000 yards. We could hear our machine guns fire and then the series. Well, we got shelled by the Jerry artillery for two nights. Boy, were we scared. Now that I look back, it seems funny but it wasn't so then. You could hear the shells coming down and we'd all jump head first into our fox holes and try to creep into our steel helmets like turtles. After the barrage finished, some of the boys couldn't even lite their cigarettes. Boy, did we laugh.

Well, anyway since we saw action I think we'll get the combat badge. It's a like this -



a blue square with a silver rifle and a wreath behind it. If I get this, it means \$10 more or \$70 a month.

Well, more tomorrow

Yal

I got to wrap up the bracelet yet so wait awhile

Pvt TAD ISHIDA 39932612
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U.S. AIR MAIL
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SALT LAKE CITY (3)
UTAH

186 Monday May 28, 1945