

4-9-C

Paston Oregon

Nov. 27, 1942

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Dear Mrs. Whitney,

Your letter dated Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> was delivered about 30 minutes ago, and I was rather surprised you had received it as I had heard all our going mail was being held temporarily. Such being the case, I did not write my usual end of the week letter to you.

Probably by now you have read the short news article that appeared in the Times - (Sat. morning) as to the disturbance in Paston. I had expected something to break, but never dreamt it would take place the same day I had written you about it - (Wednesday morning). Mr. Head only returned this morning - (after an absence of about 10 days) so I imagine we will know just what is what soon.

At the present time there are about 5 sentries walking back & forth right north of our block - 4 & 5 - 6 - 2 & 3. These are all the blocks at the northern most end of Camp Uell - it does feel like a prison camp now! These soldiers have been on duty only since last night however.

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Rumors do fly so fast & furiously you  
can hardly keep up with the latest -  
but Camp #1 has been on "strike" since  
last Wednesday morning. I told you <sup>about</sup>  
the beating, etc. Two suspects were held  
& the majority of people in Camp #1 felt  
the boys were innocent & held with  
out reason. Some how or other, word got  
around that the two were going to be  
taken to Phoenix - to be tried, but since  
we are supposed to have what is known  
as "self government" in this little  
community, everyone thought, they should  
be tried here in our police courts. An  
orderly crowd gathered in front of the  
Police station - no ruff - rapping or  
anything - The acting Camp Manager  
spoke & asked every one to go back to  
work, but the answer was no - "not unless  
the boys were released". One was released  
Friday night - one is still being held.  
Everything is at a standstill except  
the mess halls, warehouse, garage,  
hospital & schools. Each block has  
their own place to stay down there,  
& at nights, its quite a sight to see  
the huge bonfires - numbering about  
30 in all. From what I gather -  
hearing the older Japanese folks talking,  
it's really everything rolled into one -

back pay for 3 months - no <sup>heating</sup> stoves in  
sight, & a lot of the families who have  
a great number of children (I mean all children  
I mean) - are desperately in need of warm  
clothing. To say the least - it's really  
cold in the mornings - & at night it's  
just as bad. In fact lately we've almost  
had to wear a sweater all day long.  
You can imagine how mothers feel  
who have so many tiny tots in the  
apartments get so cold! We aren't under  
martial law yet - but I wonder just  
how it's all come out.

Perhaps I shouldn't say what I am  
going to say, but personally, I don't think  
it's a good policy to use "stool pigeons"  
in a place such as we are in. In the  
first place, we're in a place where it  
is impossible to make outside contacts  
that is in person - no mail goes to Japan,  
& I don't think I'm far from wrong  
when I say 8 out of 10 Japanese are in  
"God forsaken camp" where it is impossible  
to do anything. By this, I don't mean  
I agree with the rest (that is a great  
many people) & believe beatings are  
all right - but I think if I were offered  
a job to be an informer, I'd think  
twice before accepting it. I have  
adjusted myself - & can face facts  
now, but it took me a long long

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time to start to reason sensibly again -  
thanks to you Mrs. Whitney, & your timely  
letters. I often wondered what there  
was to this thing called democracy  
& our status as American Citizens (except  
for our skin). All that we have been  
going through for the past 6 months  
to the day is a million dollar experience  
& something I shall forever remember.

Most of the trouble is a continuation  
(prior to coming to camp) of the Orange  
County & Valley people. It's a long stay  
it seems, but the two young men used  
to receive so much money for each  
person turned in, and half of the  
time, there was no reason why they  
were turned in - this was proven by  
their immediate releases. Then too, it's  
a form of revenge. So - when evacuation  
came up six long months ago, the two  
boys told their friends - "Well - you're  
going to be sent to a concentration camp,  
but we are agents for the F.B.I.  
& we are privileged people so we don't  
have to go". They ended up here too, &  
the boys whose mothers had to suffer  
because their husbands were taken  
swore revenge - it's all coming so  
now.

Most of the people I've talked to, feel  
it's just too bad all this had to happen,  
& regardless of the consequences, Mr. Head,  
you is one grand manager. I know he'll  
decide what is best for all concerned.

I attended my first funeral in Boston  
Friday. The little baby I told you about  
some time ago passed away on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.  
She was such a healthy, chubby little  
thing, & then suddenly took sick. Within  
10 days, she was gone. I feel terribly sorry  
for the mother as she was certainly  
wrapped up in that little tyke, but in  
a way, I imagine it's just one of those  
things. If she did live, she probably  
would have had an unhappy life.

Saturday, I took out all of your letters  
& read each one over again. The kids  
tell me I treasure your letter as much  
as a girl would her favorite boy friend.  
To date, I have received 42 letters from  
you, and all of them have been great  
moral boosters. I often wonder just  
what "frame of mind" I'd be in if  
it weren't for all of you.

How is Braddo - George & Mr. Whitney?  
I think of you often, but on Sunday  
at Mass hold special thoughts for all of  
you. I wish this would all come to

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and so we can return to Iceland.  
You have sent me so many books -  
but I find no blue one. However, you  
gave me a small white one, titled  
"My first Communion Prayer Book". Is it  
the same thing? I am still spending  
some time each night reading the  
instruction book & also the New Testament.

About the size for dad's slipper Mrs.  
Whitney. I know they'll be terrible to do with  
to get them as it is terribly cold - but  
I think you have done much too  
much for us already. You are probably  
saying, "I am doing it because I want  
to - to my pleasure" - as you always  
do - so I shall send you the size  
number of his shoes (5 1/2 or 6 D.).  
However, please always remember  
I feel I shall never be able to repay  
you for all that you have done  
for us.

Miss time is near - I shall have  
to close. My regards to the family.

With love,  
Fernando

Please let me know when you received  
this letter. It may be held for a while here.