

1 Season Three: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode Eighteen: Our Camp

3
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

5		
6	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
7	Isobel	Jennifer Nittoso
8	Mrs. Greer	Margo Zinberg
9	Carl	Scott Walton
10	Dotty	Ina Marie Smith
11	Peg	Rebecca Haugh
12	Colleen	Mandy Balser
13	Miss McKim	Christine Holloway
14	Josephine	Halley DeVestern
15	Hazel	Diane Bolton
16	Doris	Nora Novak
17	Edith	Deanna Johnston
18	Millie	Melba King
19	Carlotta	Mandy Balser
20	Enid	Karen DeBoer
21	Marg Moule	Bonnie Marie Williams
22	Esther	Priscilla Hagan
23	Selfish Woman	Wendy Brown
24	Mrs. Griffith	Carla Wren
25	Sr. Godwin	Kathleen Godwin
26	Dr. Lee	Celia Lynn
27	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
28	Regina	Lauren Gobes
29	Jim	Maxwell Glick
30	Mrs. Saleeby	Melba King
31	Committee Man	Christopher V. Thorn
32	Bedie	Luka Aslan Nas
33	Mr. Hayakawa	Koji Asano
34	Nida	Jeannie Anne Sioson
35	Nida's Auntie	Ria Vrana
36	Ted	Troy Hudson
37	Allen	Allen Enlow
38	Phil	Eric Ryan Moore

39 [Cold Open]

40

41 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*...

42

43 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

44

45 Announcer And now, Episode Eighteen.

46

47

48 [DIARY READING ONE]

49

50 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

51

52 Natalie September 27, 1943. Out of the blue the Japanese finally gave us
53 permission to write home. Word spread through camp, and I sent
54 my first letter to Mother since the war and signed it, "Your
55 devoted daughter, No. 87."¹

56

57 It was a mad, wild, hectic day, typing letters all day long—the air
58 crackling with typewriters and people letting out their emotions. I
59 typed 32 letters for people and by five was tired and almost ready
60 to weep after looking into the hearts of the camp in letters.²

61

62 [SCENE ONE]³

63

64 Isobel Dear Mother, It's been so long that it now seems incredible that
65 we may write.

66

67 Mrs. Greer Am still not very thin. We purchase extra food when we can afford
68 it.

69

70 Carl And in my leisure time I study New Testament Greek. On the
71 whole, our treatment has been fair and considerate.

72

¹ Natalie's [August 18, 1943](#) diary entry and my lead-in to the episode.

² Natalie's [August 20, 1943](#) diary entry.

³ Natalie's [August 21, 1943](#) diary entry.

73 Dotty Am I an Aunt? When you write y'all be sure to tell me about
74 nieces and nephews.
75
76 Peg Someday, this will all be behind us.
77
78 Colleen ...and we have classes in Chinese, Japanese, Latin, Greek. German,
79 Spanish, French, English, Ilocano, Tagalog, accounting, higher
80 mathematics, architecture and Japanese flower arrangement.
81
82 Miss McKim I feel I have had a small share with you in this changed world. I
83 realize I shall not return and find things as I left it.
84
85 Josephine I have a pan made from part of a safe and a brooch with my name
86 and prison number made from a loudspeaker of all things.
87
88 Hazel Fourteen babies born, almost two years old now. Three men died;
89 one 83 years old.
90
91 Doris We line up for meals, store and even the toilet
92
93 Edith Only a very few possessions are still with us. All else is gone.
94
95 Millie Someday we'll have a great family reunion. We try to look
96 forward.
97
98 Carlotta We're soon entering our third year. Fortunately, there is no
99 censorship on thought which goes out to you often.
100
101 Enid Many who used to drink much now speak of improved health and
102 are in far better condition in spite of hardships. They do not
103 mention that it is lack of stimulants, or that regular hours of sleep
104 and outdoor life with hard work help to keep us in condition
105 during unaccustomed rigors.
106
107 Marg Moule I am so thankful my husband is with me.
108
109 Esther I have certainly learned a lot about cooking with coconuts, rice
110 flour and other native products.

111 Selfish Woman We have poor beds, no chairs, no bathtubs, no fireplaces, no
112 warmth of any kind.
113
114 Mrs. Griffith We live an active, hurried, crowded life. I live with many women.
115
116 Sr. Godwin My cathedral friends may like to know that I make the altar bread
117 using two electric irons for the purpose.
118
119 Dr. Lee⁴ Marion's son looks like Rufus. She's has done a superb job of
120 looking after their baby all by herself.
121
122

123 **[DIARY READING TWO]**

124
125 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
126

127 Natalie September 28, 1943. Jerry told me a story about a Bataan
128 prisoner and an Igorot boy, both heroes in my book. It happened
129 during a forced prison march about six miles from Bontoc.
130

131 **[CUT-IN ONE]**

132
133 Jerry So the GI is staggering under his load and collapses on the
134 roadside from exhaustion. The guards don't notice and hike off
135 without him when an Igorot boy creeps out from the bushes and
136 tells the guy he'll hide him and take care of him. But get this, the
137 GI says no because he's a Sergeant and ten of his men'll be killed
138 if he's missing.⁵
139

140 Natalie September 29, 1943. The camp started buzzing this morning
141 about a prisoner exchange. By noon it shifted to repatriation for
142 all families. But the rumor was too good to be true because after
143 second meal Miss McKim announced that only one person would
144 be allowed to go home. Bill Portrude won the drawing.⁶

⁵ September 23, 1943 diary reading and Cut-In One both from Natalie's [August 23, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶ Moule, William R., *God's Arms Around Us*, pp. 322. This diary entry is from Moule's book. Natalie did write about repatriation rumors ([August 25, 1943](#)) and Bill Portrude leaving on a repatriation ship ([September 22, 1943](#)).

145 Now that the Japanese are letting us send and receive letters, we
146 got a long note from Regina, who is interned at Los Baños prison
147 in Manila.⁷

148
149 **[CUT-IN TWO]**

150
151 Regina and if the Japanese send you down here bring everything you
152 can carry. We live in separate shacks and pay for our own food.
153 There's no community store, just private selling, and everyone
154 cooks on their own clay stove when they can afford firewood. We
155 eat beans every day at noon and crave fresh vegetables.

156
157 We do have hot and cold water on tap, but it's a long haul
158 carrying it, and the heat means constant washing.

159
160 It's been even more dull and monotonous here since 800 of our
161 men were sent to another prison. We don't any initiative down
162 here; maybe the heat sweated it out of us. What I wouldn't give
163 for a cool mountain breeze! Tell people to stay in Baguio if they
164 can, especially if they have kids.

165
166 Natalie September 30, 1943. The high school's production of "Our Town"
167 was really quite good.⁸ I think I have Jim's review here
168 somewhere....

169
170 **[CUT-IN THREE]⁹**

171
172 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News* Dear Mr. Wilder, Last night our high
173 school presented your play *Our Town*. We didn't get your
174 permission, I'm sorry to say, but I know you will excuse us. You
175 see we are in a Concentration Camp. We have been without our
176 freedom for nearly 21¹⁰ months now. Most of us haven't had any
177 mail in that time and none of us have been able to send any until
178 recently. Besides, we wouldn't have very much to pay you with

⁷ Diary entry and letter based on Natalie's [July 23, 1943](#) diary entry. Natalie wrote that "Reggie," who must have been a woman, wrote the letter. For clarity, I used Regina.

⁸ Natalie's [August 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁹ Natalie's [August 17, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁰ Adjusted for September 30, 1943 date.

179 except maybe a hand of bananas and lately they haven't been any
180 too easy to come by, the way prices are going up.

181
182 We had a good time last night. We depend on ourselves for
183 entertainment these days, you know, and it's not very often we
184 have anything quite so worthwhile as your play. Even sitting on a
185 hard bench for two hours wasn't difficult. We had permission to
186 have the lights on after 9:30. After we got out of the dining hall
187 we looked at the moonlight lighting up the mountains and the
188 pine trees around here, and it didn't seem quite so hard to wait.

189
190 Let us know if you want those bananas, Mr. Wilder, and thanks
191 from Camp Holmes.

192
193 October 2, 1943. Our underground radio still seems to be in
194 operation because "authentic" are swirling around camp about
195 the Allies' victories in Europe. Today, rumor spread about Kiev
196 falling.¹¹ Even the Manila *Tribune* admits that the Allies have
197 occupied Sardinia and Corsica.¹²

198
199 Mr. Hayakawa brought news from his trip taking Dr. Dean and the
200 lucky Bill Portrude to Manila.¹³

201

202

203 **[SCENE TWO]**

204

205 Jerry Here you go, honey. Submarined coffee, no milk, no sugar.

206

207 Natalie Thank you, Jerry.

208

209 Jerry Hey, I've got some fresh news hot off the Hayakawa press.

210

211 Natalie About the repatriation ship?

¹¹ The rumor turned out to be false. I'm summing up Natalie's multiple entries around this time about Allied Victories which the guards become worried about in later scenes. It also sets the stage for Japanese High Command's visits and increasing interest in internee welfare.

¹² Natalie's [September 28, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹³ This sentence and Scene Two are based on and imagined from Natalie's [August 25, 1943](#), [September 18, 1943](#), and [September 22, 1943](#) diary entries.

212 Jerry How'd you know?
213
214 Natalie I live in a dorm, honey.
215
216 Jerry Well, Mr. Hayakawa told Arthur that Bill Portrude left Manila on
217 small freighter sailing to Goa.
218
219 Natalie Western India?
220
221 Jerry Yep. Arthur said it holds about 1,000 passengers, but they
222 jammed over 1,500 Americans on board. I guess old Bill somehow
223 managed to get deck space on top.
224
225 Natalie It sounds like a miserable trip.
226
227 Jerry Yea. Hey, how goes the Hundred Years War over in your dorm?¹⁴
228
229 Natalie Oh, you mean a Thousand Years. Now there's a campaign to get
230 mothers to pitch in more. Mrs. Saleeby was sure hot under the
231 collar about it.
232
233 **[CUT-IN FOUR]**
234
235 Mrs. Saleeby The only ones with excuses not to help with the vegetables and
236 rice are mothers who are teaching or with small children. The rest
237 of them need to buck up! Their kids are fed and served twice a
238 day. And most of the time they're either school or being looked
239 after on the playground. Why, you'd think we're back in Baguio
240 before the war. So, don't you tell me these women can't
241 volunteer a measly hour and a half! If they have time to bake pies
242 and cakes in the women's kitchen, they have time to do a few
243 chores like the rest of us!
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¹⁴ The bits about Mrs. Saleeby, including Cut-In Four are from Natalie's [September 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

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[DIARY READING THREE]

[SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE]

Natalie I told Jerry that I agreed with Mrs. Saleeby but do have to say that sharing the stove in the women’s kitchen takes some orchestration and considerable time.¹⁵ Over 100 families use it for extra cooking. The top of the stove is first come, first served, so the burners are covered from a.m. to p.m., mostly with pots people slip in to reheat coffee. It’s a miracle there aren’t many more fights. For the oven, there is a schedule allowing two women at a time to use the oven once a week.¹⁶ Yesterday morning, Millie and I had the oven.

[SCENE THREE]¹⁷

Natalie Hey, Peg, would you give me a hand.

Peg Sure. What are you making?

Natalie Bed cookies.

Peg What?

Natalie Bed cookies. I call them that because they’re made on the bed, and I use the cookie sheet Florence stores under the baby bed. [SOUNDS OF BOWLS CLANGING AND SPOONS STIRRING] I just don’t have enough hands. Would you please measure out one cup of rice flour for me?

Peg Sure.

¹⁵ My lead in for Scene Three.

¹⁶ Moule, pp 320-321

¹⁷ Unless otherwise footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie’s [October 24, 1943](#) diary entry.

282 Natalie Thanks. Okay, now, dump it in a little at a time while I stir.
283 [STIRRING SOUNDS] Okay. Another one please...thanks. I'm
284 making this batch with cocoa butter.
285
286 Peg From Nida?
287
288 Natalie No. Jerry and I made it.
289
290 Peg Another?
291
292 Natalie Yes. Just sprinkle it on top.
293
294 Peg How'd you make coconut butter, pray tell?¹⁸
295
296 Natalie Jerry milks and strains the coconut and lets it settle for about
297 three hours. And then, I scoop off the cream and shake it in a jar.
298 Just like in grade school. Remember?
299
300 Peg I do, only we used real cream. Remember that? I'd give my first
301 born for a saltine cracker with butter.
302
303 Natalie So that's the price you put on your dear child.
304
305 Peg You didn't hear him teasing his sister last night.¹⁹ He takes such
306 delight in it.
307
308 Natalie Oh, Bedie does the same thing.
309
310 Peg And, of course, everyone hears it and thinks I'm raising a wicked
311 child.
312
313 Natalie Don't worry about it. Anyone with kids knows better. Bedie's
314 been a rascal lately. I'm kind of glad he's living with his Jerry. You
315 heard about him getting two stitches from a playground fight?²⁰
316

¹⁸ All lines about how Natalie and Jerry made cocoa butter are from Natalie's October [2, 1943](#) dairy entry.

¹⁹ The teasing is imagined to shift the conversation to Bedie and Peg's situation.

²⁰ Natalie's October [29, 1943](#) diary entry.

317 Peg Kind of.
318
319 Natalie Well, Jerry's much better at dealing with that stuff.
320
321 Peg Gosh, I wish Walter were here.
322
323 Natalie Have you heard anything?
324
325 Peg No. Not since Mr. Matsumoto visited.²¹
326
327 Natalie I'm sure Walter's still safe on Davao.
328
329 Peg I suppose.... Is that all you have to do to make coconut butter?
330
331 Natalie Well, there are a few more steps. After shaking it in a jar, you
332 have to work it over and press out the whey. Jerry's also made
333 cheese from it, if you can believe that.²²
334
335 Peg He's so clever with food.
336
337 Natalie I tell you, it borders on the occult. Still, if he can't do anything
338 with the coconut leftovers, I'd hate to toss them.
339
340 Peg Well, they've been asking for coconut scraps at the soap factory.
341
342 Natalie Really. Okay.
343
344 [SOUNDS OF MAN ENTERING THE WOMEN'S DORM]²³
345
346 Committee Man Alright Ladies, everyone must be ready in one half hour for
347 inspections. [JEERS FROM THE WOMEN] That's Oh-nine-thirty!
348 Yea, yea. I know. Generals Nagasaki and Sato are both visiting
349 today, so let's look sharp!!
350
351 Natalie Oh, you've *got* to be kidding! Now I've got to stop and clean up.

²¹ Natalie's [April 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

²² Natalie's [October 24, 1943](#) diary entry.

²³ The remainder of the scene is based on and imagined from Natalie's [September 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

352 Peg You'll still make it. I'll give you a hand.
353
354 Natalie Thanks, Peg. I haven't mopped the dorm and porch yet either.
355 Why do we keep having generals visiting camp??
356

357 [SOUNDS OF MILLIE COMING UP TO NATALIE AND PEG]

358
359 Millie [HAPPY SING SONG] Natalie, it's your turn for the oven.
360

361 Natalie Ugh, I'm not going to get to use the oven until next week.
362

363 Peg Well, I say, the heck with the generals!
364

365 Natalie You know, you're right. They're always late any way.
366

367

368 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

369

370 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE]

371

372 Natalie While Peg did my cleaning, I baked cookies. It was a mad whirl of
373 error and crumbs in every direction which were saved to make
374 pudding later. Of course, the Generals arrived fifteen minutes
375 early, but only one sheet of cookies spoiled.²⁴
376

377

378 October 3, 1943. The kids now have two or three parties a week.
379 And there's one group that plays Post Office who are becoming
380 more and more select and aggressive about it.

381

382 Bedie's been in a stew for days over a pin he's making for his
383 girlfriend with her initials carved in ivory and painted in black. It's
384 all he can think or talk about. After many errors the pin was finally
385 presented to the young lady who wrote him a thank-you note.
386

387

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389

²⁴ Ibid.

[SCENE FOUR]²⁵

388
389
390 Jerry What's the letter say, Bedie?
391
392 Bedie Nothing, just thanks for the pin.
393
394 Jerry Looks like more than that. Aw come on. Read it. No one's around,
395 and I won't tell.
396
397 Bedie Well there's one part I don't get. It says, "Bedie, why did you give
398 me the pin and go away? Why not stay and talk a little bit?" How
399 am I gonna do that, Dad?
400
401 Jerry You'll get a second chance. When are you going to see her again?
402
403 Bedie Tonight.
404
405 Jerry There you go.
406
407 Bedie The kids are having a scavenger hunt.
408
409 Jerry Hey, can't you kids find something else to do? Carl didn't
410 appreciate his books dumped all over his bed.
411
412 Bedie We couldn't find him and needed something with his signature.
413
414 Jerry So you rifled through his stuff and took one of his books?
415
416 Bedie We didn't think he'd mind.
417
418 Jerry Actually, Bedie. He did.
419
420 Bedie Sorry dad. We'll look for a grapefruit or something.
421
422 Jerry Well, if you value your life, don't go scavenging in the kitchen.
423 Chef Alex'll have your head.
424

²⁵ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [October 3, 1943](#) diary entry.

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[DIARY READING FIVE]

[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE]

Natalie And that’s young love in a concentration camp. I’d enjoy seeing our children’s grandmothers’ faces at hearing what Marj Moule said to their granddaughter the other day, spoken in typical camp lingo.²⁶

[CUT-IN FIVE]

Marj Moule Why June, where’d you get that lovely gardenia in your hair? You must have a boyfriend on garbage detail who can get gardenias outside of camp.²⁷

Natalie October 4, 1943. Since Miss McKim lost her translator job to Lt. Kira, she’s been keeping herself busy teaching a class on Japanese history using the Durants’ *Story of Civilization* as a reference.

[CUT-IN SIX]²⁸

Miss McKim That’s a good question, Phil. One must study their historical background to understand the Japanese, such as their legend of origin and the emperor’s divinity.

You have to remember that the Japanese are born of earthquakes. The battling of natural elements has produced in them infinite patience. Their courage and bravery, ruthlessness and determination, come from the Samurai Code. Every soldier is a gentleman and every gentleman a soldier. Bushido, their code, calls for courage, asceticism and self-control. The family is the real source of social order, with the father omnipotent. Now, as you recall from last week, most of Japan’s art and language is from China and Korea. Shinto is the way of the Gods—

²⁶ First sentence is my transition to the contents of Natalie’s [October 6, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie’s [October 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

460 the domestic cult of family and ancestors, communal cult of clan
461 ancestors, and finally the State of ancestors. Buddhism in 522
462 filled the religious needs of the people and the political needs of
463 the State. It taught piety, peacefulness and obedience, to be
464 content with a simple lot. Christianity came in 1549 but in 1614
465 the Shoguns or military suspected political intrigue and outlawed
466 it for 200 years. When Perry arrived in 1853 there were Shoguns,
467 the Diamyō, and Samurai. We also talked about how making the
468 sword is a serious, prayerful business.

469
470 Today, I'm going to go talk a little more about Japan's Classical
471 Buddhist period, the Tokugawa Shogunate—the most peaceful
472 period, and continue on with the timeline to the mid-nineteenth
473 century when Japan drank in all she could from the West. Let's
474 begin, shall we?

475
476 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE]

477
478 Natalie As much as the higher ups would like, Miss McKim hasn't lost her
479 status as "Honorable Aunt" and still talks with the guards who tell
480 her their concerns about Europe. Mr. Hayakawa seems to have
481 returned to relying on Miss McKim and called her to the
482 guardhouse.²⁹

483
484
485 [SCENE FIVE]

486
487 Mr. Hayakawa Obasan, honorable aunt, is it true prisoners are betting on when
488 America will invade the Philippines?

489
490 Miss McKim I don't know anything about that Mr. Hayakawa.

491
492 Mr. Hayakawa When do you think it's going to happen?

493
494 Miss McKim Truly, I don't know. When do you think?

495

²⁹ This paragraph and Scene Five based on and imagined from Natalie's [October 12, 1943](#) diary entry.

496 Mr. Hayakawa Never!

497

498

499

[DIARY READING SIX]

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501

[SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

502

503 Natalie October 5, 1943. The rainy season is about to end, so the days are
504 lovely, with less and less rain, but still fog, clouds and mist.

505

506 October 10, 1943. A gorgeous bag from Nida arrived with two
507 pounds of peanut-sugar candy, six eggs, cigarettes and matches, a
508 grapefruit and a kilo of white sugar. We ate the fried eggs at noon
509 and wondered how Nida is doing.³⁰

510

511

512

[SCENE SIX]³¹

513

514 Nida Hello.

515

516 Auntie Hello Nida

517

518 Nida Oh, hi Auntie.

519

520 Auntie How are you feeling?

521

522 Nida Just fine. What's going on?

523

524 Auntie I'm worried about the Japanese.

525

526 Nida It's just like last year when the Americans were doing good and
527 Japanese got nervous.

528

529 Auntie I saw soldiers driving tanks up and down Session Street with
530 machine guns.³²

³⁰ Natalie's [September 30, 1943](#) diary entry.

³¹ Based on and imagined from as footnoted.

³² Natalie's [October 14, 1943](#) diary entry. I added Session Street which is a main street in Baguio.

531 Nida They're up to their old tricks. Did you read the letter in the
532 *Tribune* from Col. Nagahama?³³
533
534 Auntie No.
535
536 Nida He's asking the guerrillas to turn themselves in.
537
538 Auntie This is how the guerrilla fighting always starts.
539
540 Nida It's just an excuse to start interrogating people, like those dumb
541 identification tags everyone has to wear.
542
543 Auntie I hate those chapas!
544
545 Nida If you're wearing a Baguio chapa and go to Santa Maria, you'd
546 better have a good reason for being there or you'll be arrested as
547 a guerrilla. ³⁴
548
549 Auntie But it's worse now! Japanese are doing crazy things. They're even
550 taking bolos knives away from the Igorots.³⁵
551
552 Nida You can take a bolo from an Igorot! When did they do that?
553
554 Auntie A few weeks ago when the Igorots were celebrating in town. And
555 they still haven't given them back. The Igorots can't live without
556 bolos knives. How they going to cut coconuts and bananas?
557
558 Nida I'm praying this won't make Ismael want to join the resistance
559 even more.
560
561 Auntie Are you still worried about that, Sobrinita?
562
563
564
565

³³ Natalie's [October 10, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁴ Moule, William R., *God's Arms Around Us*, pp. 248, describes how Filipinos had to wear ID tags called "Chapas."

³⁵ All reference to bolo knives and Igorots are from Natalie's [October 14, 1943](#) diary entry.

566 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

567

568

[SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

569

570 Natalie

October 13, 1943 Poor Marj Moule. She's is in bed with a malaria attack yesterday, her son was carried down on a stretcher with the same, and her husband, Bill, still suffers from the effects of polio but somehow maintains the camp's swimming pool.

571

572

573

574

Because Bedie is in better health, we allow him to swim twice a week. He loves it, and Bill keeps the water so warm and clean.³⁶

575

576

577

The new guard, another peasant type, is our latest laugh and annoyance. He constantly barges about in a consuming curiosity, full of ideas and unquenchable spirits.

578

579

580

581

582 **[SCENE SEVEN]³⁷**

583

584 Dotty

He's crossed the line this time. He just crossed... the... line!

585

586 Peg

Who?

587

588 Dotty

That new guard, you know, the Big Ape! He wants me to mend his underwear! Can't you do anything, Miss McKim?

589

590

591 Miss McKim

I'll talk to Mr. Hayakawa.

592

593 Dotty

Where are those Japanese manners they're all supposed to have?

594

595 Miss McKim

[LAUGHS] Not this one. He's just poor farmer. A lot of the guards come from humble backgrounds.

596

597

598 Dotty

Yea, but they know their boundaries with us women. What's with this guy?

599

600

³⁶ Of course, the cause and prevention of polio wasn't found until the 1950s. I cringed when I read this entry and am hoping listeners who know about polio will too because it will bring home that Natalie lived in a much different world than today.

³⁷ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [October 13, 1943](#) diary entry.

601 Peg I think he's Looney Tunes.
602
603 Miss McKim He does seem a bit off.
604
605 Dotty He's a big ape, that's what he is. So, I fixed his little red wagon. I
606 gave him a needle and thread and told him to sew it himself.
607
608 Miss McKim Good for you.
609
610 Dotty Well, then I left to take a bath. But get this. When I came back, he
611 was sitting on *my bed* sewing his BVDs.³⁸ He just made himself
612 right... at... home. It took him an hour.
613
614 Enid He sat on our bed the other day and used my manicure set to cut
615 his nails!
616
617 Dotty Well, at least he didn't ask you to do it for him. I'm afraid he's
618 going to start asking me do other things.
619
620 Miss McKim I wouldn't put it past him.
621
622 Enid That's why I hid until he was gone.
623
624 Millie Well, he was sure ziggin' and zaggin' from some home brew when
625 he crashed our party last night. Just sat his big old self down at
626 our table and helped himself to sandwiches and cake—the
627 clodhopper.
628
629 Miss McKim Well, be careful what you way around him, ladies. He's rough
630 around the edges but no dope. He's picked up a lot of English and
631 Tagalog.
632
633 Dotty He's still a hick.
634
635 Miss McKim He tried to take me away from a bridge game to do his laundry.
636
637 Dotty Bet he was no match for you.

³⁸ [BVD - Wikipedia](#). Acronym was used in the 1940s.

638 Miss McKim Well, when I reminded him that Mr. Hayakawa does not allow us
639 to do such things, he said Mr. Hayakawa is only a civilian while he
640 is Military Police.

641
642 Millie Oh, I've heard that "we out rank civilians" line before.

643
644 Miss McKim Then he... I still can't believe he did it...but he sprawled across our
645 bridge table, so I went straight to Mr. Hayakawa.

646
647 Diane What'd Mr. Hayakawa do?

648
649 Miss McKim Sent the Sergeant over to tell him to go back on duty.

650
651 Millie Mr. Hayakawa, our samurai in shining armor.

652

653

654 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**

655

656 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

657

658 Natalie October 14, 1943. War is in the air once more. If Europe cracks,
659 the Orient will get a body blow, and it won't be long.³⁹ Most
660 immediately, it is the natives the Japanese fear. Since the
661 Japanese took away their bolos knives, the Igorots are holding
662 meetings about independence.

663

664 October 15, 1943. Jim Bozeman died suddenly at 1:30 and we are
665 all very sad. Jerry came to second meal with his eyes huge and
666 mournful before the kids joined us. Millie and Ted were there.

667

668

669 **[SCENE EIGHT]⁴⁰**

670

671 Jerry It was a coronary thrombosis, Natalie. It lasted 15 minutes before
672 he died.

673

³⁹ This sentence from [October 22, 1943](#).

⁴⁰ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [October 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

674 Natalie He wasn't even that old.
675
676 Jerry There was nothing we could do. God, it was awful to watch Jim
677 convulse while someone ran to get a doctor.
678
679 Natalie We all saw Dr. Shaffer leaping over the hedges to get to the camp
680 hospital.
681
682 Millie His wife said Jim'd complained about a pain in his arm this
683 morning.
684
685 Jerry Where is she now?
686
687 Ted Over at the shop. They carried Jim from the hospital in a black
688 bag. After they finish the coffin they'll, ah, take him for a Catholic
689 burial outside camp.
690
691 Millie How old was Jim?
692
693 Jerry 47.
694
695 Millie You and Ted must have known him from the Army days.
696
697 Jerry Not really. He shipped to Corregidor in 1920 from Colorado
698 Springs. I just can't believe Jim's gone.
699
700 Ted There'll be no more wild arguments in the cook house.
701
702 Jerry He was such an ornery son of a gun. I liked him an awful lot.
703
704 Ted Yea. Me too.
705
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[DIARY READING NINE]

[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE]

Natalie

We used to enjoy listening to Jim’s stories about the week of panic before the invasion. What a picture, in his salty telling of it!—the blowing of refinery tanks with no warning at 2 a.m., followed by a red glare and men pouring up from the tunnels.⁴¹ Jim was also kind and thoughtful. He brought me lovely wild white roses from the mountains when he knew I couldn’t go up there and wanted so desperately to go.⁴²

If you can believe it, one lady upon hearing news of Jim’s death said characteristically with her face pinched with distress,

[CUT-IN SEVEN]

Selfish Woman

Well, there goes our bridge foursome.⁴³

Natalie

Jerry will miss his friend.

October 16, 1943.⁴⁴ I suppose it was only a matter of time. Someone came up with a parody of *Our Town*, renamed it *Our Camp* and put on a show last night. It... was... a... riot, full of wonderful lines straight from camp life—the epitome of camp satire and cynicism, and just the tonic we all needed.

The last scene—the one where ghosts of the dead in a New England graveyard talk to the living about the meaning of life—made us rock back and forth with laughter. Instead of it being 1910, *Our Camp* takes place in 1949, six years from now. We’re still interned at Camp Holmes and are being visited by spirits from the future who have been set free and come back to give us advice about living on the outside.

⁴¹ Natalie’s [August 13, 1942](#) dairy entry.

⁴² Natalie’s [December 22, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁴³ Natalie’s [October 15, 1943](#) diary entry. I added the word “bridge” for clarity.

⁴⁴ This entry and Scene Nine are both based on and imagined from Natalie’s [September 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

[SCENE NINE]

747
748
749 Colleen Who are you?
750
751 Millie We are ghosts from the future.
752
753 Allen We were internees like you but have been set free.
754
755 Phil When does that happen?
756
757 Allen We don't know.
758
759 Millie We've come to give you advice, to tell you not to worry, you'll get
760 used to being out of prison.
761
762 Jerry There's no rice and bananas for breakfast on the outside; only
763 steak and eggs.
764
765 Millie Why don't you join us? What are you waiting for?
766
767 Colleen We're waiting for the Great Offensive. We're waiting for
768 MacArthur to come back.
769
770 Allen Never heard of him.
771
772 Millie Who's he???
773
774 **[COLD CLOSE]**