

Season Four, Part One, *Forbidden Diary*  
Episode Twenty-One: *Heroic Medicine*

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

6	Announcer	Steve Mountjoy
7	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
8	June Crouter	Claire Oliver
9	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
10	Billy	Simon Skinner
11	Marj Moule	Bonnie Marie Williams
12	Dotty	Ina Marie Smith
13	Peg	Rebecca Haugh
14	Isobel	Jennifer Nittoso
15	Doris	Nora Novak
16	Millie	Melba Sibrel King
17	Betty	Julie M. Dean
18	Mrs. Greer	Margo Zinberg
19	Enid	Karen DeBoer
20	Jim	Maxwell Glick
21	Bill Moule	Dustin Parkhurst
22	Phil	Eric Ryan Moore
23	Dr. Benedetti	Lance Debock
24	Hazel	Diane Bolton
25	Dr. Mather	Joseph Jo Macdonald
26	Benedetti's Son	Emil Civin Nas
27	Carl	Scott Walton
28	Carlotta	Mandy Balser
29	Mrs. Saleeby	Melba Sibrel King
30	Mr. Tomibe	Masaya Okubo
31	Miss McKim	Christine Atsuko Holloway

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35 [Cold Open]

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37 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

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39 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

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41 Announcer And now, Episode Twenty-One

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44 [DIARY READING ONE]

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

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48 Natalie January 1, 1944.<sup>1</sup> We brought in the New Year last night with a  
49 bonfire and dancing to celebrate our Red Cross Christmas  
50 packages. Jerry and I watched the young and strenuous Virginia  
51 Reel while June joined in, cheeks flaming and loving it. Then came  
52 folk dancing and a hilarious hula performance before we all ended  
53 up modern dancing in the dining hall. Three took turns at the  
54 piano while the guards stood by watching and smiling. I was low  
55 on energy, so Jerry danced with June. He wanted to leave early  
56 but June was having none of it.

57

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59 [SCENE ONE]<sup>2</sup>

60

61 [SOUNDS OF MUSIC AND PEOPLE CELEBRATING]

62

63 June But Dad, we *have* to stay until midnight!

64

65 Jerry Your Mother's tired, June.

66

67 June Can't I have one more dance with Billy, pleeeeeease?

68

69 Jerry All right. One more, and that's it.

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<sup>1</sup> This entry is taken from Natalie's [December 31, 1943](#) diary entry.

<sup>2</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 31, 1943](#) diary entry.

71 June Thanks Daddy.  
72  
73 Billy Thanks, Mr. Crouter.  
74  
75 [SOUNDS OF JUNE LEAVING WITH BILLY]  
76  
77 Natalie I think your New Year's resolution for 1944 should be getting used  
78 to your daughter staying up later.  
79  
80 Jerry With a chaperone.  
81  
82 Natalie Jerry, she's not a little girl any more.  
83  
84 Jerry She's not an adult either.  
85  
86 Natalie Well, I'm exhausted.  
87  
88 Jerry You go on up. I'll stay here and look after Ginger Rogers and  
89 Bedie.  
90  
91 Natalie Where is Bedie?  
92  
93 Jerry I don't know. Somewhere.... Oh hey, before you go, did you tell  
94 Peg?  
95  
96 Natalie Yes. She's going to get someone else to scrub the porch on  
97 Tuesdays.<sup>3</sup>  
98  
99 Jerry Good, because you can't handle heavy work anymore.  
100  
101 Natalie I know, but I told her that I'm still going to wash the mops. Well,  
102 don't stay up too late.  
103  
104 Jerry Don't worry about that.  
105  
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<sup>3</sup> Natalie's [January 1, 1944](#) diary entry. Natalie wrote about limiting her physical work because of waning health.

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[DIARY READING TWO]

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

Natalie January 3, 1944. It burns me up that the Japanese are still holding our mail from America. We're starting our third year of confinement and haven't gotten letters or messages of any kind from home.<sup>4</sup>

To keep our spirits up, Jim read to the Camp an imaginary letter from home telling of the new developments in aviation, movies, rationing and production which he'd culled from newspapers used as packing in our Red Cross boxes. It was an excellent compilation, and everyone felt like they'd gotten the next best thing to a letter from home.<sup>5</sup>

As it turns out, Jim may be writing more letters because the Executive Committee is still opening up the Red Cross boxes from Christmas. This afternoon June and I stood at the end of a long line to get the distributions for women and girls. It rained, of course.<sup>6</sup>

[SCENE TWO]<sup>7</sup>

[SOUNDS OF WOMEN ENTERING THE DORM]

Marj Yuck! I'm soaking wet.

Dotty Why does it always rain when we have to stand outside in line?

Marj Well, what'd you get, Dotty?

Dotty It looks like it's the same as what the boys got.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Natalie's [January 22, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>6</sup> Natalie's [January 1, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>7</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 1, 1944](#) diary entry.

143 Marj What's that?  
144  
145 Dotty A towel, some soap, handkerchiefs, a comb, multi-vitamins, and a  
146 tin of brown shoe polish.  
147  
148  
149 [TRANSITION 1]  
150  
151 Natalie What'd we get June?  
152  
153 June Looks like the same stuff Bedie got, Mummy.  
154  
155 Natalie I think we got more than that. Look. [SOUND OF TISSUE  
156 RUSSELLING] We each got cleaning tissues, Tampax, a roll of toilet  
157 paper, and a seersucker night gown. What about you, Peg?  
158  
159 Peg Umm, same. Are your nighties pink?  
160  
161 June Yea, mine's really cute.  
162  
163 Peg I got panties and a playsuit with a skirt. Did you?  
164  
165 Natalie Uh huh.  
166  
167 June Me too.  
168  
169 Peg What are we going to do with these size-D bras?<sup>8</sup>  
170  
171  
172 [TRANSITION 2]  
173  
174 Isobel These clothes are awful.  
175  
176 Doris They're all the same. They'll make us look like we're orphans or  
177 prisoners.  
178  
179 Millie Well, I hate to break the news to ya, hun....

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<sup>8</sup> Natalie's [January 11, 1944](#) diary entry.

180  
181 Isobel I'd look better in a Girl Scout uniform.  
182  
183 Millie Well if you don't want yours....  
184  
185 Isobel Yes! I want them!  
186  
187 Doris We can always accessorize or do something with them.  
188  
189  
190 [TRANSITION 3]  
191  
192 Betty Hmmm, these night gowns are gathered so there's yards of fabric.  
193  
194 Marj Think you can make something with them, Betty?  
195  
196 Betty I know I can. I would bet that there's enough material in one of  
197 these nightgowns for at least a blouse or a skirt or perhaps a girl's  
198 dress and some panties.<sup>9</sup>  
199  
200  
201 [TRANSITION 4]  
202  
203 Natalie Here you go, Millie.  
204  
205 Peg They're all yours.  
206  
207 Millie What am I going to do with all of these bras for corn sake?  
208  
209  
210 [TRANSITION 5]  
211  
212 Mrs. Greer Enid, has Arthur told you what Executive Committee's going to do  
213 with the 100,000 pesos we got from the Red Cross?<sup>10</sup>  
214  
215 Enid They're talking about divvying it up equally to everyone in Camp.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Natalie's [January 15, 1944](#) diary. Natalie wrote about a woman helping women cut out clothes from the new materials.

<sup>10</sup> The ending phrase in this sentence is from Natalie's [February 2, 1944](#) diary entry.

216  
217 Mrs. Greer That's 200 pesos for each of us, including children.<sup>12</sup>  
218  
219 Enid Boy, that's not very much when you put it that way.  
220  
221  
222 [TRANSITION 6]  
223  
224 Doris [CALLS OUT] Hey, did anyone get lipstick or rouge?  
225  
226 Millie, Marj, Peg No.  
227 and Natalie  
228  
229 Dotty There's still more boxes they haven't distributed. Maybe they'll be  
230 in there.  
231  
232 Isobel No. They went to an internment camp in Shanghai, along with the  
233 dental supplies.<sup>13</sup>  
234  
235 Doris Darn! I knew I shouldn't have gotten my hopes up.  
236  
237  
238 [DIARY READING THREE]  
239  
240 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]  
241  
242 Natalie January 5, 1944. Today's newsletter has turned us all into sleuths.  
243  
244  
245 [CUT-IN ONE]  
246  
247 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News* A person sneaked into the dining room  
248 and cut the strings on the piano.<sup>14</sup> The question is who did it?

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<sup>11</sup> Natalie's [January 12, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>12</sup> P100,000/500=200.

<sup>13</sup> Natalie's [January 3, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>14</sup> I removed "sometime between December 27 and 31" for simplicity and to avoid listener confusion. Natalie wrote [December 31, 1943](#) diary entry people taking turns at the piano at the New Years Eve party. How could they have played a piano with the strings cut?

249  
250  
251 Natalie The great piano caper is as good as any murder mystery. Although  
252 the vandalism makes the entire Camp indignant, everyone is  
253 speculating on which one of us might be demoniacal enough to do  
254 it, making second meal conversations livelier.

255  
256

257 **[SCENE THREE]**<sup>15</sup>

258

259 Bill Moule It was the Bible thumpers.

260

261 Mrs. Greer But, why would they want destroy a piano?

262

263 Bill Moule Didn't you hear 'em saying, "dancing is the instrument of the  
264 devil"?

265

266 Marj A whole bunch of them said they didn't want any dancing at the  
267 New Year's Eve party.

268

269 Bill Moule Not to speak disparagingly of the religious in here, but ah ...

270

271 Marj Well, what about the woman who refused to loan her violin for  
272 square dancing? She said it was wicked.

273

274 Bill Moule Nah, a woman wouldn't destroy a piano.

275

276 Marj A lot you know.

277

278 Phil Nah, you're both wrong. It was rat.

279

280 Jerry That's what I think.

281

282 Millie Then it was one, big 'ol hungry rat. How many keys are on a  
283 piano?

284

285 Mrs. Greer Eighty-eight.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 5, 1944](#) diary entry.

286  
287 Natalie I think that it was one of the cooks. Think about it. The piano's  
288 right next to the kitchen and the crew has to listen to kids  
289 practicing day in and day out.  
290  
291 Jerry Yep. That'd drive me nuts.  
292  
293 Millie I think it was done by a cook, in the dining hall with a kitchen  
294 knife.<sup>17</sup>  
295  
296 Phil Well, if it was, then he's a knothead<sup>18</sup> cuz now he's gonna have to  
297 listen to kids pounding on an out-of-tune piano after they try to  
298 fix it.  
299  
300

301 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

302  
303 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]  
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305 Natalie January 6, 1944. Nida sent us fresh fruit and vegetables, including  
306 four baskets of big red strawberries which we hulled and washed  
307 on the spot, eating them with Red Cross sugar and milk,  
308 recklessly. The Camp kitchen doesn't have the money to provide  
309 us with an adequate amount of food. I've been noticing that if my  
310 meal is delayed by even five minutes, I become petulant and  
311 irritable.<sup>19</sup>  
312  
313 An egg a day is being promised for children age 2 ½ to 8 ½, so 75  
314 in total. The eggs are to come out of a special allotment and will  
315 be handed out and checked off by one person at noon.  
316 Unfortunately, June and Bedie are always beyond the age limit for  
317 everything. They get adult chow and their teeth and general  
318 growth suffer for it.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [How Many Keys Does a Piano Have? - Piano Area.](#)

<sup>17</sup> According to the internet, Clue was invented in 1943-45 by British Anthony Pratt who invented it as a way to keep from being bored during air raids. It wasn't introduced to America until 1949 but I couldn't help myself.

<sup>18</sup> Slang word predates 1944. See [knothead.](#)

<sup>19</sup> Last sentence is from Natalie's [January 8, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>20</sup> Paragraph from Natalie's [January 8, 1944](#) diary entry.

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I had more energy after eating Nida’s fresh fruit than I have for weeks and became angry. I wanted to go home and turn the Japanese out of my house in Baguio. I hate to think of the Navy taking a bath in my tub, sitting at my fireplace and hate them for intruding. I hate them thoroughly tonight. I also worry about Ismael in prison<sup>21</sup> and wonder if Nida has had to move.

January 7, 1944. Beginning at seven this morning men could be seen with an empty Red Cross carton on each shoulder, trailing in from all angles to the Camp store. At noon they returned with cartons full of clothes and shoes, grinning with wide smiles.

Trading began immediately. Soon new shirts, olive drab shorts, coveralls, rich brown wool sweaters—all kinds of combinations of outfits—burst forth all over Camp. The men were like kids.

Jerry is tickled with a beautiful brown suit owned by a big man and wonders whether he still lives and where. One large button is missing and there are a number of burns on the coat.

Jerry fussed over his pile of treasures all afternoon. He looks and feels like a million. We all do. The women have fallen hard for their gay-colored playsuits.<sup>22</sup> The whole camp has taken on new life, a verve and dash.<sup>23</sup> And no one has ever mentioned the word “charity.” Three years ago, we would have all been unreasonably high hat about taking things.<sup>24</sup>

January 8, 1944. This evening the Executive Committee moved the remaining Red Cross items to a large room and held a lottery.<sup>25</sup> Children were drawn first, then men and women last. It was all public, according to strict rule, and no complaints have been registered.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> I inserted Ismael to keep that thread going for Season 4.

<sup>22</sup> Natalie’s [January 2, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>23</sup> Natalie’s [January 5, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>24</sup> Natalie’s [January 11, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>25</sup> There was one more disbursement but for brevity I only mentioned the ones here.

<sup>26</sup> Natalie’s [January 4, 1944](#) diary entry.

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I think that the Committee has been clever to draw out the disbursement of Red Cross items over several weeks, prolonging the fun and keeping up morale for longer. Although I do have to say that after losing 25 years of accumulation my possessive instinct has receded to such an extent that I cannot raise much steam for anything—*except* our new sheets, which are heavenly. After two years of rough blankets around our necks, how smooth, comfortable and restful they are.<sup>27</sup>

I *am* glad to see others’ excitement. With some it assumes large and serious proportions and with others the old horse-trading trait comes to the fore. Some try to be fair in swapping, others try to be smart and slick—even when trading with the Sisters for their cigarettes.<sup>28</sup>

January 10, 1944. Four Military Police guards have been replaced with 14 Regular Army soldiers. “Charlie” the parting Sergeant who threw a going-away sukiyaki dinner (where members of the Executive Committee returned high and sick from sake and beer) came around to say good-bye.<sup>29</sup> His parting word was “Watcho!” And he was right for the new soldiers are everywhere, poking about curiously, on guard in every direction with gun and bayonet.<sup>30</sup>

Something is brewing but we don’t know what. Are the Japanese clamping down because of U.S. victories, or is it part of an administrative change now that the puppet Philippine government has been allowed to take over?<sup>31</sup>

January 11, 1944. Until Jim’s article in today’s newsletter, not much has been said about the medical supplies donated by the Red Cross.

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<sup>27</sup> The part about the sheets came from Natalie’s [January 2, 1944](#) diary entry, the rest is from [January 4, 1944](#) .

<sup>28</sup> Natalie’s [January 4, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>29</sup> The sukiyaki dinner is described in Natalie’s [January 5, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>30</sup> Natalie’s [January 11, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>31</sup> This is my foreshadowing for the next episode.

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**[CUT-IN TWO]**

Jim                                   *Camp Holmes Daily News*. Sulfa drugs, just coming into their own in the late 1930s, have apparently taken forward strides judging by their large quantity in the Red Cross shipment. Although it has been described in prewar medical journals, Sulfadiazin is a drug new to doctors in Camp so far as actual experience in its use is concerned. Sulfanilimide and Suflaguanadine were also sent in powdered form for direct antiseptic application to wounds.

The Red Cross also shipped an abundance of a new substance called plasma. Our doctors have read prewar research papers about plasma and are further studying its usage.

**[SCENE FOUR]**<sup>32</sup>

Dr. Benedetti                   This is incredible!

Dr. Mather                     It's quite remarkable indeed.

Hazel                            What's incredible, Dr. Benedetti?

Dr. Benedetti                 Plasma. Dr. Mather and I been following the research out of Columbia University since 1938.<sup>33</sup>

Dr. Mather                     They found a way to separate it from whole blood, Hazel.

Hazel                            Why? Isn't it still human blood?

Dr. Mather                     Yea. Plasma makes up about 55% of human blood.<sup>34</sup>

Hazel                            Why not just use whole blood?

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<sup>32</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 11, 1944](#) diary entry.  
<sup>33</sup> See [How plasma saved lives through the ages, from 1918 to WWII to today | Plasma Heroes](#),  
<sup>34</sup> Ibid. Also, [Blood plasma - Wikipedia](#).

421 Dr. Mather Because you can give plasma to anyone.  
422  
423 Hazel You don't have match blood types?  
424  
425 Dr. Benedetti No. Red blood cells are removed from plasma, so you don't have  
426 to match a donor's blood type to the patient's.<sup>35</sup>  
427  
428 Hazel So anyone can receive it?  
429  
430 Dr. Mather Yes. Anyone.  
431  
432 Dr. Benedetti And they've reduced it to a powder, so we don't have to worry  
433 about blood storage and shelf life.<sup>36</sup> Open one of the kits, we'll  
434 show you.  
435  
436 [SOUNDS OF BOX BEING OPENED]  
437  
438 Dr. Mather See, Hazel. It couldn't be simpler really. The dry plasma is mixed  
439 with sterile water. It's useable within three minutes.<sup>37</sup>  
440  
441 Hazel So it's given like a blood transfusion?  
442  
443 Dr. Mather Yes. The same as we've always done. Only with plasma feeding  
444 into the drip instead of whole blood.  
445  
446 Hazel Well, then does plasma replaces human blood?  
447  
448 Dr. Mather No. It's for maintaining blood volume and blood pressure to keep  
449 the heart and brain going until a trauma patient gets to a hospital.  
450 It keeps him from going into shock.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> See [blood-plasma-fact-sheet.pdf](#) from the National WWII Museum.

<sup>36</sup> Natalie never directly says the plasma was dry but she wrote about mixing it with sterile water. I assumed that it was powdered. See [The plasma wars: a history - Schmidt - 2012 - Transfusion - Wiley Online Library](#) where it says, "By September 1941, the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the AMA had accepted both the liquid plasma and a commercial freeze-dried product as new nonofficial remedies. A package was designed by Kendrick and Elliott for bottles of either the 250 or 500 mL equivalent of dried plasma to be reconstituted with companion bottles of distilled water. Both were supplied in boxes containing all that was necessary to infuse on the battlefield."

<sup>37</sup> See [An Allied Wonder Weapon-Plasmas](#).

451  
452 Hazel Oh, like a soldier in the battlefield.  
453  
454 Dr. Benedetti Exactly. That's why it was invented. Just look at how compact this  
455 transfusion kit is. Probably designed for the battlefield, I would  
456 think.  
457  
458 Dr. Mather It will save millions of lives.  
459  
460 Dr. Benedetti Yea. At least something good's come out of this stinking War.  
461  
462 Hazel Well, they sent us more of this plasma stuff than we'll ever use. I  
463 guess we can trade it for medical supplies.  
464  
465 Dr. Mather That is... unless we find ourselves treating soldiers if and when  
466 MacArthur returns.  
467  
468 Dr. Benedetti Yea, there's a thought.  
469  
470 Hazel We'll certainly use up the new sulfa drugs before the plasma.  
471  
472 Dr. Benedetti Have you tried any of new sulfa powers?  
473  
474 Dr. Mather Yes, the Sulfanilimide. I used it for Walter's boils, but it's too soon  
475 to compare the results with the old sulfa meds. I'm excited to try  
476 the Sulfadiazine.  
477  
478 Dr. Benedetti The literature said it can be used as a prophylactic agent for  
479 bacillary dysentery.<sup>39</sup>  
480  
481 Dr. Mather Really?  
482  
483 Dr. Benedetti Yea, but only when an outbreak becomes highly epidemic.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid. See also, [The Many Uses of Plasma — Stanford Blood Center](#), [What is plasma? Function, uses, and donations](#), [How plasma saved lives through the ages, from 1918 to WWII to today | Plasma Heroes](#), [The plasma wars: a history - Schmidt - 2012 - Transfusion - Wiley Online Library](#), and [blood-plasma-fact-sheet.pdf](#) from the National WWII Museum.

<sup>39</sup> Mackie, Hunter, Worth, *A Manual of Tropical Medicine*, pp. 144. This was first published in 1945. I have the second edition, 1954.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

484  
485 Hazel Well, we won't have to wait too long for that to happen... again.  
486 You know, Dr. Benedetti, you don't look very well.

487  
488 Dr. Mather Hmm... Hazel's right. Your color looks a bit off, Frank.

489  
490 Dr. Benedetti No. I'm fine.

491

492

493 **[DIARY READING FIVE]**

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

496

497 Natalie January 12, 1944. The Camp is chuckling at Dr. Benedetti, who  
498 took his blood pressure and sent himself to the hospital with  
499 jaundice yesterday. Two hours later, he left. Out of the mouths of  
500 babes, his young son told everyone within earshot.

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503 **[CUT-IN THREE]**

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505 Benedetti's Son My Daddy came home because it was too noisy at the hospital.  
506 And it wasn't the patients! It was the husbands.

507

508

509 Natalie At last, a doctor got to see firsthand that the Camp hospital is run  
510 more for the staff than the patients. There are parties even in the  
511 lab, sometimes five or six going at once and bridge games until  
512 very late.

513

514 I suspect that there will be less parties in the future because all of  
515 the Red Cross food has been distributed, leaving 100,000 pesos in  
516 Relief money about which the General Committee has finally  
517 made a decision.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> This is my transition and lead into Cut-In Four.

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[CUT-IN FOUR]<sup>42</sup>

Jim

*Camp Holmes Daily News* As long as our financial condition is precarious, no Red Cross Relief Funds will be distributed to individuals. Instead, the General Committee will use the Funds to purchase rice and other food items needed to keep our diet at a subsistence level. All internees will benefit from the Fund's appropriation for this purpose.

Natalie

January 13, 1944. For weeks, signs have been posted begging people to help with the rice sorting because our allotment has even more unhusked grains and dirt. The overall response has been tepid, but the ingenuity of a few has saved us once again.<sup>43</sup>

[CUT-IN FIVE]

Jim

*Camp Holmes Daily News* Placed in operation today was the Camp's first power-driven rice separator, a Rube Goldbergish contraption of pulleys, wheels, cams, a motor and a shaking table with serrated baffles. It was constructed at the shop out of salvaged materials, including part of a Red Cross box.<sup>44</sup>

Natalie

January 14, 1944. I made June stay in bed all day. She started her first period almost two weeks ago and hasn't stopped. Dr. Mather finally gave her some Ergot this afternoon which is used to stop hemorrhaging after childbirth.<sup>45</sup>

January 15, 1944. Bedie had a chill last night, so Jerry got into bed with him to hold and warm him. Now June and Bedie are both in bed with me traveling in between. My hands are in water washing

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<sup>42</sup> Natalie's [January 12, 1944](#) diary entry

<sup>43</sup> Natalie's [January 11, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>44</sup> Natalie's [February 8, 1944](#) diary entry

<sup>45</sup> [Ergot poisoning: History, causes, symptoms, and more, The Usage of Ergot \(Claviceps purpurea \(fr.\) Tul.\) in Obstetrics and Gynecology: A Historical Perspective - PMC, and Methylegonovine \(oral route\) - Side effects & dosage - Mayo Clinic.](#)

553 something all day long.<sup>46</sup>

554  
555 January 16, 1944. I'm starting to feel desperate. June is so pale  
556 and getting weaker in spite of the medicine.

557  
558 I've been awake for hours at night with worry and a bitter feeling  
559 in my stomach which feels like my mouth—full of blisters and  
560 canker sores.<sup>47</sup>

561  
562 January 19, 1944. June was very ill during breakfast and we went  
563 for the doctor. Ruth gave me a can so we could stop the long trek  
564 to the toilet and for the first time I was able to see that June is still  
565 hemorrhaging. My heart sank. It is clear now why she's in pain  
566 and weeps and writhes.

567  
568 They took June's blood count and by ten Jerry was carrying her in  
569 his arms to the Camp hospital.

570  
571 I wept my heart out on Jerry's shoulder pouring out my worry  
572 over June. He held me tight and is terribly upset himself.

573  
574 January 20, 1944. Dr. Mather went to town and found some  
575 Antuitrin and two books on glands and hormones. The doctors  
576 think control is lacking because of Vitamin K.

577  
578 January 21, 1944. Thanks to the Red Cross, June was given a  
579 plasma transfusion this evening. She's the third one who has had  
580 it, and it seemed to have revitalized her. After, June laughed and  
581 was full of stories, unaware of how truly ill she is.

582  
583 January 22, 1944. Dr. Mather, Jerry and I huddled around June's  
584 hospital bed this morning to discuss her blood count.

585

586

---

<sup>46</sup> Natalie's [January 16, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>47</sup> Natalie's [January 28, 1944](#) diary entry. Natalie mentions problems with her health multiple times before January 28, 1944. June almost died, so I chose not to divert and dilute the story with Natalie's health issues. This sentence is to show that June's condition is so serious that it's affecting Natalies' already poor health.



622 Natalie Jerry went off and sat in another room while I stood by June as  
623 the doctor sweated trying to get into a vein. June's blood volume  
624 is so low that her veins have collapsed.

625  
626 I ache all over from weariness and anxiety repression. Jerry is cast  
627 down because he can't give his blood, *but* people are offering to  
628 donate blood and have sent eggs, muffins and custards for June.<sup>50</sup>

629  
630 After the doctor got enough to type, I stayed at the hospital  
631 feeding June muffins slathered with butter to build her strength.  
632 Bedie came over for a muffin with strawberry sauce, and I sent  
633 some back for Jerry. After, I went to bed feeling like weeping but  
634 knowing I must gather all my force for June.

635  
636 January 23, 1944. Dr. Mather said they'd give the transfusion early  
637 and be finished by 9:30 so I could visit then. As I headed over to  
638 see June, Carl stopped me.

639  
640

641 [SCENE SIX]<sup>51</sup>

642  
643 Carl Natalie! Natalie! Hey, wait up. They haven't given the transfusion  
644 yet.

645  
646 Natalie Why? What's going on?

647  
648 Carl They've just finished taking blood from Dr. Shaffer. Dr. Mather  
649 said it's going to take a couple of hours, so you may as well go  
650 back to your barracks.

651  
652

653 [TRANSITION 1]

654  
655 [BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF WOMEN'S DORM]

656

---

<sup>50</sup> In Natalie's [February 8, 1944](#) diary entry she later wrote specifically about muffins and custards and all of help and support from people in Camp.

<sup>51</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

657 Peg What are you doing back here, Natalie?  
658  
659 Natalie They haven't even started the transfusion, Peg.  
660  
661 Peg Did you get to see June?  
662  
663 Natalie No.  
664  
665 Peg How long's it going to take?  
666  
667 Natalie They said a couple of hours.  
668  
669 Peg I know. Well, why don't we play some cards? Take your mind off  
670 of it.  
671  
672  
673 [TRANSITION 2]  
674  
675 [BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF WOMEN'S DORM]  
676  
677 Peg Sorry, Natalie. That's Gin. You want to play another game?  
678  
679 Natalie It's been over an hour. Hasn't it?  
680  
681 Peg Probably.  
682  
683 Natalie I gotta get out of here, Peg. I'm going to go back to the hospital.  
684  
685 Peg Okay. Well, then hold on a sec, I'm coming with you.  
686  
687  
688 [TRANSITION 3]  
689  
690 [HOSPITAL SOUNDS IN BACKGROUND]  
691  
692 Carlotta Oh...ummm. Hi, Natalie.  
693  
694 Natalie Are they still working on June?

695  
696 Carlotta Yes. She's still upstairs, but Dr. Mather and Hazel haven't left  
697 June's side.  
698  
699 Peg Look, Natalie. I can see Dr. Mather in a white gown, and Hazel. I  
700 can't see June, though.  
701  
702 Natalie I can't stay here, Peg.  
703  
704 Carlotta There's some chairs outside the baby house.  
705  
706 Peg Want to head over there?  
707  
708  
709 [TRANSITION 4]  
710  
711 [OUTDOOR SOUNDS]  
712  
713 Peg This is a good spot. How about here?  
714  
715 Natalie Okay. I just needed to clear my head.  
716  
717 Peg Want a cigarette?  
718  
719 Natalie No.  
720  
721 Peg Mind if I?  
722  
723 Natalie Go ahead.  
724  
725 Peg Do you know who ended up giving blood?  
726  
727 Natalie Dr. Shaffer. I saw him this morning. You know, I didn't have the  
728 words to thank him. All I could do was take his hands. I think I  
729 embarrassed him.  
730  
731 Peg The whole Camp would have offered their blood if they could.  
732

733 Natalie Jerry says there's going to be a big crowd of people to thank.<sup>52</sup>  
734  
735 Peg Well, everyone loves June, and she's been so brave.  
736  
737 Natalie You know if I could, I'd bear it for her, Peg.  
738  
739 Peg I know you would.  
740  
741 Natalie But it seems [SNIFFING BACK TEARS] she must learn to bear it for  
742 herself. [PROUDLY] And she is, isn't she, Peg?  
743  
744 Peg Oh, yes with flying colors. You know, Natalie, I still don't  
745 understand what's going on. I've never heard of this happening.  
746 Maybe in childbirth, but from your monthly?  
747  
748 Natalie It's called. It's called menometrorrhagia.<sup>53</sup>  
749  
750 Peg What's that?  
751  
752 Natalie Prolonged uterine bleeding.  
753  
754 Peg How prolonged has it been?  
755  
756 Natalie Since about the beginning of the month.<sup>54</sup>  
757  
758 Peg Oh my Lord, Natalie. Now wonder.  
759  
760 Natalie June was shy about telling me at first, and she didn't know how  
761 much to expect. It's her first period.  
762  
763 Peg Poor June. What a horrible introduction to womanhood.  
764  
765 Natalie They've given her medicines to stop the bleeding but she's lost so  
766 much blood. God, why is this taking so long? What time is it?

---

<sup>52</sup> Natalie's [January 25, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>53</sup> [Menometrorrhagia: What causes it, what are the symptoms, and more](#). See also, Geist M.D., Samuel and Spielman M.D., Frank, *The Therapeutic Value of Anituitrin-S in Menometrorrhagia*, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Vol. 29, Issue 4, April 1935, pp 518-525.

<sup>54</sup> On [January 14, 1944](#), Natalie wrote that June had been sick for two weeks.

767  
768 Peg A little past eleven.  
769  
770 Natalie Let's go back to the hospital.  
771  
772  
773 [TRANSITION 5]  
774  
775 [HOSPITAL SOUNDS]  
776  
777 Natalie Mrs. Saleeby, what are you doing down here? You're supposed to  
778 be in bed upstairs next to June.  
779  
780 Mrs. Saleeby I can't stand seeing 'em work her over.  
781  
782 Natalie Work her over!  
783  
784 Mrs. Saleeby But she's beeing so brave, Natalie, not even a whimper.  
785  
786 Peg Natalie. Look upstairs. The nurse is holding a can of blood.  
787  
788 Carlotta They've had a hard time finding a vein.  
789  
790 Natalie My God, haven't they put it all in yet? I can't sit here; I'm going  
791 back to the dorm.  
792  
793  
794 [DIARY READING SEVEN]  
795  
796 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]  
797  
798 Natalie When we returned to the hospital, a nurse called down saying  
799 they were almost done. Ten minutes later, Dr. Mather was no  
800 longer bending over the bed and Hazel called me upstairs to find  
801 June smiling against her pillow, chatty from pent-up nerves and  
802 relief that the ordeal was over.  
803  
804

805

**[CUT-IN SIX]**

806

807 June

See all that red on the bath towel, Mummy? That's Dr. Shaffer's blood. They had 400 cc and when they couldn't get into a vein in my arms or legs, Dr. Mather said, "Well, here goes" and went straight into my neck. Blood spurted out and then he began to let it in and it wasn't bad after that. It kinda felt like water running through my throat. I'm sure glad he didn't have to put it into my jugular.

814

815

816 Natalie

Later, we found out that it's exactly what Dr. Mather did. June admitted that it was better that I wasn't there because she had to be brave with strangers, and she was. She didn't cry once and is proud of it.

820

821

The whole staff adores her. The nurses are fighting over taking care of her. Dr. Mather left before I could speak with him.

822

823

Someone said he was talking with Dr. Benedetti but I didn't want to interrupt him.<sup>55</sup>

824

825

826

827

**[SCENE SEVEN]<sup>56</sup>**

828

829 Dr. Benedetti

So? How'd it go?

830

831 Dr. Mather

Got a cigarette?

832

833 Dr. Benedetti

Yea. Here. You're a hero, you know.

834

835 Dr. Mather

For today. That could have gone south<sup>57</sup> so quickly.

836

837 Dr. Benedetti

What was her blood count?

838

839 Dr. Mather

Before the transfusion? Forty-three and dropping.<sup>58</sup>

---

<sup>55</sup> Last sentence is a lead-in to Scene Seven.

<sup>56</sup> Imagined from and based Natalie's [January 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>57</sup> The colloquial expression started in the 1920s. See [gone south - Quick search results | Oxford English Dictionary](#)

840  
841 Dr. Benedetti                    Damn.  
842  
843 Dr. Mather                        That was the most difficult transfusion I have ever done. We spent  
844                                        three hours working over that poor girl looking for a vein.<sup>59</sup>  
845  
846 Dr. Benedetti                      Did you have to go through the groin?  
847  
848 Dr. Mather                         I wish.  
849  
850 Dr. Benedetti                      The jugular?  
851  
852 Dr. Mather                         Yes.  
853  
854 Dr. Benedetti                      Jeez. Have you done that before?  
855  
856 Dr. Mather                         Once. Under entirely different circumstances. And not on a wide-  
857                                        awake child. I hope I *NEVER* have to do that again. *God*, talk about  
858                                        heroic medicine!  
859  
860 Dr. Benedetti                      For the patient or you?  
861  
862 Dr. Mather                         Both.  
863  
864 Dr. Benedetti                      You know, I'd have thought the Ergot and Antuitrin would have  
865                                        stopped the hemorrhaging.  
866  
867 Mr. Mather                         Me as well. I've never had a case like this.  
868  
869 Dr. Benedetti                      Well, we've never had so many medically compromised patients.  
870

---

<sup>58</sup> I have been unable to reference what exactly a "blood count" meant in 1944 and what was considered normal, so I'm going by context from the diary. After June was on the mend, Natalie wrote in her [January 28, 1944](#) that her blood count went from "43 to 56." On [February 7, 1944](#) Natalie wrote that Jerry "whooped to the full moon" when she told him June's "hemoglobin" was 72.

<sup>59</sup> I'm extrapolating this from the [January 23, 1944](#) diary entry where Natalie wrote it was "nearly two hours of working over [June] before they even started the transfusion." The [February 8 1944](#) diary entry mentions "several nurses who assisted over the three hours."

871 Dr. Mather As you Yanks would say, "Ain't that the truth." Well, the  
872 transfusion will help with clotting<sup>60</sup> and anemia<sup>61</sup> at least for now.  
873 I'm going to put a standing order into the kitchen for her diet.  
874  
875 Dr. Benedetti So, do you think the plasma worked as advertised?  
876  
877 Dr. Mather Yes. It kept June from going into shock.  
878  
879 Dr. Benedetti Think she'll pull through?  
880  
881 Dr. Mather To tell the truth, I don't know. Thank God, the girl wasn't  
882 pregnant.<sup>62</sup>  
883  
884 Dr. Benedetti You didn't suspect that?  
885  
886 Dr. Mather It was the first thing I thought of.  
887  
888 Dr. Benedetti In here?  
889  
890 Dr. Mather Come on, Frank. You've been practicing as long as I have.  
891  
892

893 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**

894  
895 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]  
896

897 Natalie January 24, 1944. Dr. Mather says June is far better than she was  
898 three days ago.  
899  
900 June has to pull through. She has a lot to do in this world<sup>63</sup> that  
901 keeps spinning it often seems without us. We heard today, word-  
902 of-mouth, that the Japanese are evacuating New Guinea and

---

<sup>60</sup> See [Blood transfusion - Mayo Clinic](#).

<sup>61</sup> See [Blood Transfusion for Anemia: Benefits and Risks](#).

<sup>62</sup> The pregnancy is my add-in from a conversation with my gynecologist. I mentioned June's symptoms and she immediately suggested pregnancy and miscarriage. I said that that would have been nearly impossible and she gave me a knowing look and said something to the effect of what Dr. Mather says at the end of the scene. I thought, "how many times had she heard, 'I can't possibly be pregnant.'" Some things don't change.

<sup>63</sup> First sentence is my transition using June having "a lot to do in this world" from Natalie's [January 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

903 escaping to New Britain and New Ireland. Sy claims that the  
904 Russians are 100 miles from Poland and that France expects the  
905 Allies to invade from the North any time.<sup>64</sup>

906  
907 January 25, 1944. Thank God. June's condition has definitely  
908 curbed. The sun and light from her hospital window gives her  
909 mental pep, and something's always happening to keep her mind  
910 off her troubles. While I was visiting, Carlotta rushed by  
911 breathlessly exclaiming to Dr. Benedetti,

912

913

914 **[CUT-IN SEVEN]**

915

916 Carlotta Looks like we're going to deliver a baby today!

917

918

919 Natalie Behind her were four Igorot men carrying a small Igorot woman  
920 on a straw mat strung over two rough-cut tree saplings. The poor  
921 soul had been in labor for two days. The doctor could do nothing  
922 because he had no instruments, so she had to go to the hospital  
923 Baguio. During this event, a second Igorot woman was brought in  
924 with a gallbladder attack, slung in a cloth on her husband's back  
925 like a baby.

926

927 January 26, 1944. Dr. Mather issued a standing medical order that  
928 bone marrow and liver be sold to us every time it's available for as  
929 long as June needs them. Everything is being done for her. She  
930 has four to five eggs a day and more than one doctor attending. It  
931 is a long slow pull but she will make it.

932

933 Bedie is feeling better too and is ravenous. He ate four bananas  
934 after supper. We must find a way to somehow satisfy his appetite.

935

936 January 27, 1944. As Jerry and I were leaving the hospital after  
937 visiting June there was a sudden running back and forth. It didn't  
938 take long for Jerry and me to find out why.

939

---

<sup>64</sup> Sy's news is from Natalie's [January 17, 1944](#) diary entry.

940

941

[SCENE EIGHT]<sup>65</sup>

942

943 Peg Did you guys see all of the commotion over at the hospital?

944

945 Natalie Yes. Do you know what that was all about, Peg?

946

947 Peg Mrs. Morris died.

948

949 Natalie Dolly?

950

951 Peg I'm afraid so, Natalie.

952

953 Natalie How?

954

955 Peg She finished a huge stack of ironing, went back to her dorm space  
956 and started gasping. It happened so fast. She grabbed her throat  
957 and fell over on the bed and was gone.

958

959 Natalie Did you see it?

960

961 Peg No, Millie told me. Thank God her kids weren't there.

962

963 Jerry Doesn't, I mean didn't she have children?

964

965 Peg Yes. A 2-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy, Jerry.

966

967 Jerry Is she the one whose husband was transferred to a military  
968 prison?

969

970 Natalie Yes.

971

972 Peg Gosh, she was wound up tighter than a spinning top.

973

974 Natalie The poor woman.

975

976 Peg You know, she never adjusted to camp.

---

<sup>65</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 27, 1944](#) diary entry.

977  
978 Jerry Yea. We have a couple of guys like that over at the men's  
979 barracks.  
980  
981 Peg Dolly smoked like a chimney even though the doctors warned her.  
982 She spent all of her time baking cakes and cookies for parties and  
983 ironing. No one notices wrinkled clothes in here.  
984  
985 Jerry That's for sure.  
986  
987 Peg She just kept burning the candle at both ends over the silliest  
988 things.  
989  
990 Natalie It's a disastrous way to deal with anxiety.  
991  
992 Peg You think that's what it was: anxiety?  
993  
994 Natalie Oh, absolutely. I think that's how she coped, but it just made  
995 everything worse.  
996  
997 Peg She should have focused on taking care of her children, not all of  
998 that other stuff.  
999  
1000 Natalie Maybe she couldn't.  
1001  
1002 Peg I don't get that Natalie. I really don't.  
1003  
1004 Jerry Well, be that as it may, there are now two children without a  
1005 mother and their father is in a military prison.  
1006  
1007 Peg Do you think the Japanese'll transfer him here to take care of  
1008 them?

1009  
1010  
1011  
1012  
1013  
1014

**[DIARY READING NINE]**

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

1015 Natalie January 28, 1944. Jerry's swollen leg kept him from being a  
1016 pallbearer. Three days ago, he had boils burned out with carbolic  
1017 acid<sup>66</sup>, so he had to stay home while I attended Dolly's funeral  
1018 which was most impressive. The Episcopalian service was majestic  
1019 as the priest reminded us that the Lord sends us into this world  
1020 with nothing and takes us out the same way.

1021  
1022 When the men took up the spades, we turned to leave as Mr.  
1023 Hayakawa, Mr. Saito, and Mr. Tomibe<sup>67</sup> walked up to the grave.

1024  
1025 Mr. Tomibe stood facing all of us. He looked fine, so  
1026 straightforward, as his voice boomed into the hushed group. Miss  
1027 McKim stood beside him, her hands placed palms together in the  
1028 submissive pose of all Japanese women—a sort of folding in of the  
1029 body, drooping shoulders, fallen eyes, complete subjugation and  
1030 humility.

1031  
1032 As Mr. Tomibe spoke, Miss McKim translated, adding her own  
1033 sincerity and simple expression to what he said.

1034  
1035

1036 **[SCENE NINE]<sup>68</sup>**

1037  
1038 Mr. Tomibe [JAPANESE] I want you all to know how sorry I am about Mrs.  
1039 Morris. I wish that I could do more.

1040  
1041 Miss McKim Tomibe-san wishes to tell you how sorry he is about Mrs. Morris  
1042 and that he wishes that he could do more than he is allowed to  
1043 do.

1044  
1045 Mr. Tomibe [JAPANESE] I know that you are all upset. The Imperial Army has  
1046 notified her husband, but it is not possible to bring him here.

---

<sup>66</sup> Natalie's [January 25, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>67</sup> When Natalie wrote this entry, Tomibe was a Major in the Imperial Army. But he came about it in a circuitous way via Army Reserves. She calls him Maj. Tomibe once and only mentions Tomibe wearing a uniform twice. Natalie called him Tomibe, Mr. Tomibe, Tomibe-san, and Bunshiyochō. For consistency, he is referred to as Mr. Tomibe, unless Natalie is mad at him and then it will be Tomibe. Tomibe-san is an honorific, so Natalie, Japanese, and Americans call him that in his presence.

<sup>68</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 28, 1944](#) diary entry.

1047  
1048 Miss McKim Tomibe-san knows that you are all upset. The Imperial Army has  
1049 notified Mrs. Moriss's husband, but they say it is not possible to  
1050 bring him here.  
1051  
1052 Mr. Tomibe [JAPANESE] Please remember that there are two small children to  
1053 care for and bring up.  
1054  
1055 Miss McKim Tomibe-san asks that we please remember that there are two  
1056 small children to care for and bring up.  
1057  
1058 Mr. Tomibe [JAPANESE] Please do what you can to help them.  
1059  
1060 Miss McKim Tomibe-san asks that we do all we can to help Mrs. Morris's  
1061 children.  
1062  
1063 Mr. Tomibe [JAPANESE] I just want to say how sorry I am.  
1064  
1065 Miss McKim That's all. Tomibe-san just wanted to say how sorry he is.  
1066  
1067  
1068 Natalie February 1, 1944. June is walking but very slowly. She can barely  
1069 climb a stair step.<sup>69</sup> But her blood count is up to 56, and even the  
1070 doctor looks encouraged.<sup>70</sup>  
1071  
1072 June is understandably frightened about her next cycle, so I  
1073 reassured her that the doctors will look after her from the  
1074 beginning now that they know about her condition.<sup>71</sup>  
1075  
1076 We came so near to losing June that I still shake all over when I  
1077 think of it.<sup>72</sup>  
1078  
1079  
1080 [COLD CLOSE]  
1081

---

<sup>69</sup> Natalie's [February 1, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>70</sup> Natalie's [January 28, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>71</sup> Natalie's [January 31, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>72</sup> Natalie's [January 26, 1944](#) diary entry.