

The Soldiers Wife

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Although some service personnel were on their way home from Europe soon after V-E Day, there were also many who remained for several months until occupation units were formed. Many were also preparing to head to the Pacific if need be. Arthur remained at Camp Herbert Tareyton in France anxiously waiting to be sent home or to the Pacific. He certainly had earned enough points, as determined by time in service among other criteria, for the former.



May 26, 1945

My dearest husband:

Sweetheart, we heard from Leo today and he says things look so favorable that he is sure he will not be there long. As per the radio the news is very good. Read in the paper today where 17,000 soldiers left New York for home after being in the European war. Some are coming to Fort Sam Houston. How I wish and pray you were among them!

*I never realized I could miss anyone so much until you had to leave. I know that soon you will be back with us. Love from Rose Lee and Jimmy. God Bless You
Your wife forever, Pito*

The family in San Antonio welcomed the newest member when Tinzi gave birth to a baby girl in May. Leo was now a proud father and was looking forward to coming home to his new family. Pito was planning a visit to Eagle Pass for the summer. She treasured the perfume and other souvenirs that Arthur sent her from France and was so thankful to God for answering her prayers as Arthur had not been sent back to the front lines. She stayed positive that he would come home soon.

May 28, 1945

My dearest beloved husband:

Am so proud of you sweetheart, and very proud also of the things you sent me. Since I was a little girl in school, I always wanted something sent to me direct from France. And just think, the one I love sent me perfume. Darling, I think the world of you. As a son, you are swell; as a husband, you are perfect; as a father, you are tops. Do not

worry about us; we will soon be together again if God wills it. Regards from Ralph, Vera's husband; he thinks highly of you and hopes the best for you. Take care of yourself and God Bless You.

Your wife forever, Pito

The Army Air Field in Eagle Pass was closing leaving Joe and Mary without a job. They soon found work in Brackettville with a company doing contract work for Kelly Field.

May 28, 1945

Dear Arthur:

Sure glad to hear from you and know that you are O.K. Hope you come home soon. I was making a rough estimate and I think you have 105 to 110 points. That ought to get you out. Some fellows here have gotten out with only 95 points.

Mother and Pito are full of hope. Got a picture of Rose Lee and she sure is cute. She already walks and by the time you come home she'll be starting to talk.

Well, the air field here is closing. Might have to go somewhere else for a job. I learned in the Army to deal with all kinds of people. It comes in handy in civilian life. Hope to see you soon.

Love, your brother Joe

June 1, 1945

My dearest husband:

Sweetheart, you make me very happy with your letters. I'm glad you know about the 85 point system. Now I'm almost sure you will be among those discharged. So please, my darling, you have done your part. Please don't volunteer to go to the Pacific.

Remember you have a daughter you haven't met yet and we are all waiting for you. I'm glad you heard from Charles. Mary wrote that they received a letter from Edward saying he moved to another island in the Philippines but he is fine. Do not worry sweetheart. I feel so good that you have all those points on your records. It will be wonderful to start life all over in reunion with the children, and plan for the future. I love you my darling, and always will.

God Bless You

Your wife forever, Pito

Tete's husband, Chato, had enlisted in the Army and was training at Fort Sam Houston. He had a short leave in early June so Tete and Mary travelled to San Antonio to see him and visit with Pito. They had fun window shopping downtown during which they noticed several soldiers wearing the 2nd ID shoulder patch.

It was a welcome sight to see that the soldiers were really coming home. Pito and the children accompanied Mary on the bus trip back to Eagle Pass to visit for the summer.



Dear Daddy:

June 5, 1945.

I received a letter from Uncle
Lee and he says he's proud about my
first communion. Are you proud, I
hope. When you come back, are
we going to have a farm. I like
ponies. I am glad you are going to
get me some. God bless us, life.
My Aunt Mary is here on and Frank
is here too. Let's and her family come
too. I made a cross of Jesus and
pray for you. Rose Lee is fine and
I love her. And I love you, too. Mama
loves you, too. God bless you.

Your son,

Jimmy

Pito and the children stayed in Eagle Pass until the middle of July. Jimmy had a lot of fun playing with Mary's and Tete's boys. As usual in the summer, it was very hot and dusty in Eagle Pass. Jimmy turned red with sunburn. He was also learning how to plant and grow things so he could help on the farm he imagined when daddy would come home. Joe and Mary were gone during the week working at Brackettville, but they came home on weekends. Nana was very happy to have Pito there helping with Mary's boys during the week. Of course, Rose Lee was getting spoiled by her grandmother.

They were all anxious for Arthur to come home and they worried because he would write in his letters about going to the Pacific to fight the Japs and finish this war. They would write back telling him not to think that way; he had done his part and his obligation was now at home with his family. Pito worried that Arthur may have changed a lot as she had noticed changes in other service men that had come home from overseas.

June 27, 1945
Eagle Pass, Texas

My dearest husband:

Haven't heard from you in more than two weeks and even if it's quiet in France, I can't keep from worrying. Hope this means that you are on your way to the states. Hope you haven't changed much. Most boys I have seen have changed a lot. I want you to be the way you were; quiet, bashful, and above all respectful. I pray to God that nothing will happen to you. Do write as soon as you possibly can as my heart is filled with anxiety. Nana is already planning things for you and Edward. Bless her soul. Well, dearest, regards from Joe and love from the children. Hope to hear from you real soon.

Your wife forever, Pito

June 29, 1945
Eagle Pass, Texas

My dearest husband:

Sweetheart, after waiting almost a month to hear from you, I received your letter of June 16 where you say that if it's God's will, you will be back home some time in Aug. Hope it's true. I keep on praying every night. I read your letter to everyone here and they laughed with joy. God Bless You.

Your wife forever, Pito

Knowing that he would soon be leaving France, Arthur requested a three-day pass so he could visit Oscar's grave. It had been a year since he was killed but seemed like yesterday. The feelings of that day returned to Arthur as he knelt by the cross at his brother's grave. Tears filled his eyes as he said a last goodbye, but part of his heart and soul remained there.

24 July, 1945

My dearest Sweetheart:

Pito, today I received some of your back mail. The letters you wrote me from Eagle Pass saying that you will be in San Antonio July the 10th. I am glad that you and the children are okay and had a good time in E.P., although I know how hot and dusty it gets there. Now that you are home take it easy and don't work so hard. Yes sweetheart, I know the Sec. Div. is back at Fort Sam Houston. All the boys in the Div. are new men. The old soldiers; some of them are dead, some are crippled for life, some are out of the Army, and some are like myself in the E.T.O. still sweating it out and wonder when we are going home. Funny how the Army forgets about the men that give their lives and fight to give an outfit a good name, but this is War and it isn't over yet.

I signed my application papers so I guess it won't be long now and I will be on my way to the States; I hope. Ever since I got out of the Hospital I have tried to get back to the Sec. Div. but they wouldn't send me. And since all the old soldiers of Co. K were gone, well it was pretty tough to find anybody to get me back. I still wear the Sec. Div. patch and wish I could go back soon and maybe go to the Pacific and see Edward maybe. But I am dying to see Rose Lee, Jimmy, you and everybody at home. Hope you get this letter soon. Love to each and every one.

Yours forever, Arthur

29 July, 1945

My dearest Wife:

Pito, I miss you so much and have been dreaming about you every night. Maybe some time before Christmas I will be home. I hope. Hope the country over there hasn't changed much. As for over here where I am there is not much to say, only a lot of bombed buildings and a bunch of hungry people. Will write again soon.

Oh, you know what. I had the first banana in over two years but it's green, and I'm saving it till it gets ripe; and then what a party! Kisses to Jimmy and Rose Lee.

forever yours, Arthur

When Pito and the children returned to San Antonio from Eagle Pass her sisters gathered at mama Lupita's house to welcome them home. They bought ice cream cones for all the children and enjoyed visiting as usual. There was news in the paper every day of service men from overseas arriving in New York and Pito continued to hope and pray that Arthur would soon be among them.



The soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army were indoctrinated to fight to the death; that to surrender was dishonorable. Although they did not all accept this teaching, they were also falsely told that Allied forces would kill them if they did surrender. By 1945 Japan had lost their stronghold in the Pacific and was at the point of defeat, yet refused to capitulate.

In an effort to persuade the Japanese military to surrender, the U.S. Army Air Force began a campaign of intense bombing on the Japanese home land. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilian lives were lost.

The Imperialists still would not capitulate. It was estimated that an invasion of Japan would result in hundreds of thousands of U.S. casualties and millions of Japanese deaths. This brought about the decision from President Truman to approve the use of two atomic bombs that had been under secret development. The bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and August 9 respectively.

Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945 with the formal signing taking place aboard the battleship, *USS Missouri*, on September 2 in Tokyo Bay.....THE WAR WAS OVER!

ON TODAY'S EDITORIAL PAGE

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"Talk Hearable with a Hear"	Columns

San Antonio Express **LATE EDITION**

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15, 1945 PRICE 5 CENTS—ESTABLISHED 1868

**JAPAN QUITS UNCONDITIONALLY
TRUMAN ORDERS FIGHTING ENDED**



With the good news of Victory over Japan, V-J Day, families back home knew their loved ones would be coming home. Pito no longer worried about Arthur going to the Pacific. Edward, Charles and Leo would be home before Christmas. Chato also would receive an early discharge as many others did over the following months. It was a time to celebrate.

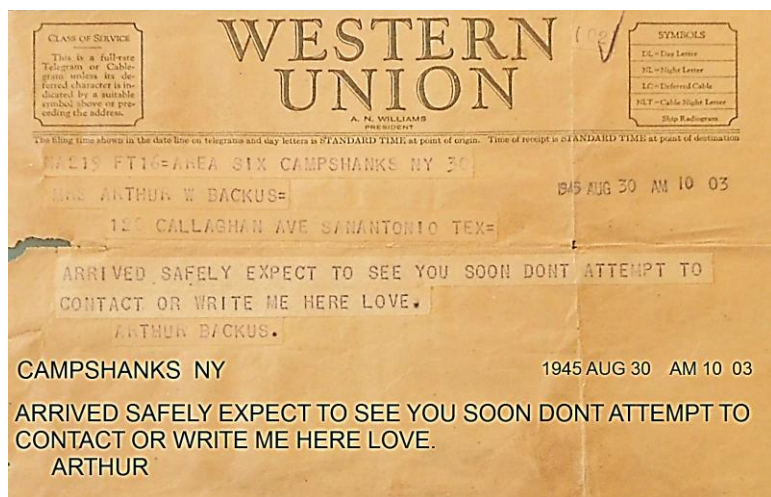


Jimmy with Victory cake and toy soldiers in background forming V..._

Arthur finally received embarkation orders. He boarded RMS *Queen Mary* with several other soldiers and sailed to the United States, arriving in New York on August 30, 1945.



Pito received the telegram that morning and cried with joy; her prayers answered.





Rose Lee at 18 months in 1945
With her daddy for the first time
Nana's house in Eagle Pass

