

June 14, 1984

Dear Michi,

Your ltr just arrived today. Just a short note to thank you and to quickly correct some inaccurate information.

The patrol Irving Akahoshi and I went on in the Boggo Beachhead has been distorted by almost everyone. It was a very carefully developed plan and it was executed almost entirely as planned except for the actual capture of the two German prisoners. The plan evolved over a 3 months span of time, and the specific area was studied in great deal including aerial stereo photo pairs plus low angle aerial photo from every conceivable angle. The decision to go was made rather hurriedly, but even this took a week. Because everyone viewed it as a suicide mission, final clearance was made at the Corps level with 5th Army having veto power.

What made the capture of prisoners at almost any cost necessary was the location of the Ger Tank Division on the beachhead had not been ^{determined} located, and the area of the patrol was one of two locations where the main attack to breakout of the beachhead was under consideration. It in fact was the favored, but a prisoner had not been taken in this area in over 3 1/2 months. If the Ger Tk Division was here, the main atk had to be made elsewhere.

These were taken at my request.

Very flat & no canals with good road net.

Info about main atk made known about this time. However, great pressure from highest level for months prior to present.

Every detail of the patrol had been worked ^{out} with painstaking care, nothing like noisy equipment. Every item of clothing, equipment & weapons were carefully selected. Exact time for each separate phase of the patrol was coordinated to minimize conversation. Exactly who in (Irving & I had to feel our way through their mine field.) "B" Co would clear our mines, who would cut the barb wire, ^{ours and theirs} exactly where and when. The soldiers who volunteered to cover us were personally selected by Capt Sakae Takahashi and approved by me. The method of communications by radio without conversation was fully understood by everyone. Even down to when we would arrive at "B" Co and who was to be our guide. After obtaining signal that everything ^(with cutting & mine clearing) had gone as agreed we left Sakae for the frontline.

In executing our plan, I stumbled on to this outpost of guards who did not show up in any of our photos. I was only four ft from Irving when my stopping and motioning him forward temporarily startled him. He instantly understood my sign language, and we simultaneous placed our sub machine guns into the open snoring mouths of both the Sgt and Pvt. Motioned silence and they agreed.

They were both very good soldiers and gave us no information except their names,

We were at our target bunker and I was to circle around to the other side. We were only inches away from the Germans and could hear them, so it was a very tense moment.

serial numbers and rank. However, their uniforms gave us the information needed.

To detail the whole story would take pages. In the initial stages, Irving & I were less than 5 to 6 ft from the enemy and stayed within 10 ft of them till 4:30 to 5:00 AM. to include their withdrawal for 60 yards. We crossed the barb wire, ^{a mine field} at midnite. Everything that could make ^{their fields} noise was eliminated and that which couldnt was taped down including the grenade pins. Nothing was left to chance.

Needless to say, the patrol was a success and the main attack out of the beachhead was made exactly where the patrol took place.

Irving Attkahoshi lives in N.Y. and works in NYC. He design jewelry. My sister, Willa Kim, claims he is extremely good. He once bent a little and made some costume jewelry ~~for~~ for one of her shows. Irving is an extremely intelligent ^{person} and was a very good soldier. He has a sub-genius IQ and very stable emotionally. He would never stretch the truth.

My poor health is due to incorrect surgery following a ~~severed~~ Korean War wound which severed a main nerve in my leg. The leg still cause some problems

We were to avoid front line soldiers and go deep for hrs personnel and in daylight.

but most of my problems stem from the 20
some surgical procedures performed to
offset the initial error.

My rare depressions do not go back
to my war experiences; however, thoughts
of my many deceased close friends make
me sad and quiet. My community
involvement and work is in a way a
small repayment to them. They are the
ones who keep me going in this direction
instead of laying on the beach. I love the beach,
but only go once or
twice a yr.

That is a very flattering picture of
me. I am not that good looking in person
or from many other angles. Probably
why Margaret Hiroto and the others gave
it such wide coverage.

The list is very interesting, but these
are all 442nd men. In fact in Nov '43,
I was in a hospital overlooking Naples from
a machine gun bullet through my
right leg.

Have to quit. Ran 7 miles yesterday
and a little tired.

Warm Regards,
Young

P.S. Irving's address is: 110 Woods Ave.
Bergenfield, N.J. 07621 Tel 265-7533
(over)

My side notes are a poor attempt to try to clear up points which on rereading do not make much sense. Casper through our Bn Comdr at Cassino and initially at Anzio approved my planning and considering a daylight patrol. He was an experienced combat leader having commanded a battalion throughout the N. African campaign. At the time of the decision Gordon Singles had just taken over command having just arrived from the States. He just could not and would not assume responsibility being new to the unit and combat. I reported his views. Thus the decision was passed up to Division, Corps and Army Hqs. Both Jim (Casper) and Gordon were West Pointers, both fine individuals, both watched and cared for me during my entire army career. Gordon was more like a father to me; whereas, General Mc Caffrey and others more like an older brother.

Young