January 5, 1947

To Sonny,

The other night as I lay in bed thinking, the name of Ben Mosell came to mind. Why, I don't know. But it did. You still remember him in Central Hotel on Ottawa, Jew who gave promise of being a good lawyer even tho he swindled the police with his handling of some close to honey cases.

Well, today I was reading a copy of the New York Times Weekly Magazine. It was an English written publication dated July 23, 1942. The article "War Bonds are Treated by Japan with Tenderness" in the lady of the story was the enclosed Dorni's news release from Manila dated July 12, 1942.

Read it carefully.

I don't think Mosell wrote the article voluntarily at all. But again, perhaps he hoped to further his plight by some discreet manoeuvring. It would not lie a Fascistum under the circumstances that may have existed. After the "Batangis Death March" I just can't believe such a thing could be justly written by an American.

Mosell died. I seem to recall a report that he was being sent to Japan on a
POW ship when the vessel was torpedoed by an American submarine. I'm going to try to get the real dope on this fellow. He has asked back home in T.C.

One thing that makes me doubt the authenticity of this article is the use of the word "cinemas." As you and I know, we just don't call movies or motion pictures "cinemas." That's strictly a British usage or parlance. But it is interesting isn't it? Especially the crack about MacArthur. I don't doubt the hogs left behind at Bataan might now have felt love letters for the General who left them behind. I know I have a rare chance to get inside information and possibly I can contact the officer in charge at the time.

Adm. Nagano died a year ago today. They had a anniversary gathering at his brother-in-law's house, Mr. Sazie. Bill Logan and I went for dinner. I learned that Mrs. Nagano had suffered a stroke and is now paralyzed. She is only 42 or 43, Nagano's second wife, and lives in the southern part of Japan. Too much worry, I suppose. Lost the human suffering I've seen. Well that war! I guess, or rather the aftermath.

John
WAR PRISONERS TREATED BY JAPAN WITH KINDNESS

Japanese Are Gentlemen

Domei

MANILA, July 12.—The Japanese officers and men are all gentlemen and the American war prisoners who are now being interned under the superintendence of the Japanese authorities are being supplied with better food than was given by the American commissary during the siege on Bataan Peninsula.

So writes a United States flying officer, Ben Mossel, who was taken prisoner in middle April, in a document entitled "Prisoners," which the officer wrote recently.

His work, which vividly describes the mental condition of the writer before and after the war, is, in substance, as follows:

"I was formerly a lawyer in Kansas City, Missouri. I read many books which dealt with the European War and the hostilities which might occur in East Asia.

"I read articles pertaining to the internment camps and saw cinemas dealing with the lives of the internees. They invariably described the miserable conditions in the prisons and consequently I was induced to think that, should I be taken prisoner and confined in an internment camp, my life would also be one of misery.

"I was summoned to the colors in June, 1941 and subsequently was dispatched to the Clark Airfield in Pampanga Province in the Philippines.

"Early in the morning of December 8 last year, a huge formation of Japanese warplanes attacked the airfield and destroyed it. The American Expeditionary Forces retreated to Bataan Peninsula in late December.

"As the Japanese tightened their iron cordon around the Filipino-American Forces in the peninsula, a gloomy atmosphere began to

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prevail among the American officers, who daily talked about the miserable plight they would meet when taken prisoners. Few of them expected to be left alive if captured by the Japanese.

"On April 10, Major-General King finally surrendered to the Japanese Army and the struggle on the peninsula came to an end. In my opinion, the spiritual impotence of the American officers was responsible for the debacle in the Philippines and this defect on the part of the officers is attributable to the poor leadership of General Douglas MacArthur and his staff.

"It was natural that the Fil-American Forces on Bataan Peninsula should have been defeated, because, in addition to the incompetence of the American officers, the Japanese Forces were all crack soldiers, who were superior to the defenders both in mentality and in physique, and were led by able officers.

"We were captured and a question arose as to the treatment of the prisoners, which problem we had so often discussed. When I went near the hospital quarters, some Japanese tanks came, from which the Japanese soldiers alighted. They kindly treated the American nurses and surgeons as well as the patients.

"The attitude of the Japanese soldiers was splendid. They were kind and gentlemanlike. I was surprised when they supplied us with abundant foodstuff, such as potatoes, rice, sugar, lard, flour, beans etc. which were better than those issued by the America commissary during the siege on Bataan Peninsula.

"The miserable, sanguinary aspects of the prison, which I had been induced to preconceive through books, cinemas and talk, have now been completely erased from my mind."