

801 Cedar Street

Sandpoint, Idaho.

Feb. 21, 45

Dear Mr. + Mrs. Spears,

We received your good letter several days ago and our hearts ache for those that have lost loved ones in this awful war. Our precious boy hadn't written of the tragic accident that claimed the life of your dear son, I imagine he feared telling us would cause to worry more about him. I can't understand why your letter to Joe was returned "unclaimed" as it seems our letters always reached him in a very short time during their several months stay in the Hawaiian Islands. The squadron was stationed at bases on these islands until some

time near the first of Aug.

To this time we've had no word from our boy and any word regarding the crash seems to hold little hope, and the island that he crashed on or near to, is still in Jap hands and should he be held on the island we probably can't hope to have any word regarding Joe until the U.S. can land troops on the island.

One of Joe's best friends in the squadron writes that they will be back in a U.S. port some time this month ~~of~~ the early part of Mar. he also says the squadron has been hard hit - many of the boys missing in action - he was missing for 3 weeks, also commander Bakutis was missing for

some time but both were rescued
and returned to the squadron.

How we hope and pray that
you have heard from your son
Woodrow by now and that he
is alright.

I'm keeping the clippings you
sent, but if you wish to have
them returned, I'll return them but
otherwise, I would like to have them.

May God be your strength and
stay in every time of need and
I'm sure that some day will
understand many things that
is beyond our understanding now.

Sincerely yours
Mrs. Fred L. Cox