

American GIs



March 22

*Darling, Darling, Junie!
Junie, this happiness is right
unbearable. Got back from a mission
at 4:00 this afternoon . . . but I quit
breathing completely until the
wonderful news was unfolded. A son!
Darling, Junie . . .
All of the boys in the squadron went
wild. Oh it's wonderful! I had saved
my tobacco ration for the last two
weeks and had obtained a box of good
American cigars . . . Golly I'm anxious
to know all the details. I figure Damon
was born on the 19th. I wonder what
he weighs and all about him. Tell him
that he has the proudest, happiest,
and luckiest Pop in the whole world.*

*Junie if this letter makes no sense
forget it—I'm sort of delirious—Today
everything is special. This iron hut
looks like a castle. The low hanging
overcast outside is the most beautiful
hue of blue I've ever seen. I'm a father.
I have a son! My darling wife has had
a fine boy and I'm a king . . . Oh, Junie,
I wish I could be there. Now I think
maybe I could be of some help. There
are so many things to be done. What a
ridiculous and worthless thing a war is
in the light of such a wonderful event.
That there will be no war for Damon! . . .
Oh my beautiful darling, I love you
more and more and more. Gosh, I'm
happy! Sweet dreams my sweet
Mother.
Love, Rarey*

Source: "Dear Home: Letters from WWII," History.com, www.history.com.

Japanese Americans



Women



Rosie the Riveter

All the day long,
 Whether rain or shine,
 She's a part of the assembly line.
 She's making history,
 Working for victory,
 Rosie the Riveter.
 Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage,
 Sitting up there on the fuselage.
 That little girl will do more than a male can do,
 Rosie the Riveter.

Rosie's got a boyfriend, Charlie.
 Charlie, he's a Marine.
 Rosie's protecting Charlie,
 Working overtime on the riveting machine
 When they gave her a production "E,"
 She was as proud as a girl could be,
 There's something true about,
 Red, white, and blue about,
 Rosie the Riveter.

—Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb, 1942

African Americans



Jewish Americans



Mexican Americans



Dear Mr. Wallace:

We are writing you this letter because we heard you speak on the 16th of September here in Los Angeles . . . In our neighborhood there are no recreation centers and the nearest movie is about a mile away. We have no place to play so the Police are always arresting us . . . There is still a lot of discrimination in theaters and swimming pools and . . . [the] newspapers have made us look like criminals too. They make fun of zoot suits and use the word "Mexicans" like it was a dirty word.

We have talked about all this in our club and we think it is very bad for the war because it is against unity and divides us from the rest of the people . . .

[We] know that us Mexican-American boys and girls can do a lot of things to win the war if someone will give us a chance. We have got a Defense Club to help the 24 boys on trial and the way we are raising money for that is to collect scrap iron . . .

Discrimination is what hurts the most, so help us with that particularly because discrimination is the thing that makes the other Americans divide from us . . . We don't like Hitler or the Japanese either.
We thank you very much.

Respectfully,
**YOUTH COMMITTEE for the DEFENSE
OF MEXICAN AMERICAN YOUTH**

Source: "American Experience: Zoot Suit Riots," PBS, www.pbs.org.