



## AMERICAN RED CROSS

Barbara, Henry, and Ann:

Dearest Children:

While we have been lying at anchor out here near a group of small islands, I have had time to make a final draft of the story I promised you, "The Little Poi Dog Named Pau". Am enclosing a list of suggested illustrations, because I know how Barbie likes to draw and paint.

Today I have been doing my washing. The shirt you sent me in the Christmas box launders beautifully, but I had a hard time washing my pants. It is very hot here, so the slightest exertion, like washing clothes, makes you sweat gallons.

If you like the story, I will write another one for you about the same Poi dog, and tell you more of his adventures. Please write to me and tell me how you like it, will you?

I know you will all be good for mother, and nice for Grandma, and make school records this year that we can all be proud of. Would like to drop in and pay you a visit tonight... but its a little far away to do that.

Here's a big hug and kiss for each of you.... much love,

Daddy

"The Little Poi Dog Named Pau"  
a story for children

When the little Poi dog first opened his eyes, he could not see a thing. The reason he could not see anything was because the bright Hawaiian sun was shining right in his eyes. Sometimes the sunshine in Hawaii is so bright that it hurts the eyes of little dogs, and boys, and girls, and grownups too, unless they wear sun glasses.

The little Poi dog could smell the soft fur of his mother close beside him, and feel the tiny feet of his six brothers and sisters as they crawled over him on their way to dinner. But he could not see the poinsettia flowers on the bushes over him, the bright blue of the island sky, or the fleecy white clouds scudding across the mountain tops in the distance. The Poi dog's mother could see them, but she paid no attention, because she was a Poi dog too.

Now Poi dogs, like the Poi dog and the Poi dog's mother, are Hawaiian dogs of mixed and somewhat doubtful heritage. That means they are a mixture of almost everything, like Poi. Poi is not really a mixture of everything, but it does look like a lot of things mixed together. Poi is a food eaten by Hawaiian boys and girls. It is taro root made into a sticky paste, like the library paste used to make scrap books. It tastes something like paste too, but the Hawaiian boys and girls love it. There is thick poi, known as one finger poi. When you eat one finger poi you dip into your bowl with only one finger and enough sticks to that finger to make a mouthful.

Then there is two finger poi, which is thinner, so you must dip two fingers in the bowl at once to get enough for a mouthful. No one knows why Poi dogs are called Poi dogs, but they are still called Poi dogs. Poi dogs have a nose like a terrier, big feet like a police dog, and carry their tail like a foxhound... almost straight up. Their ears lop over at the ends, like the wings on a P-51 fighter plane. There are brown Poi dogs, black Poi dogs, and spotted Poi dogs. Some have long hair and some have short hair, but they are still Poi dogs.

The Poi dog's name was Pau. Pau is the Hawaiian word meaning the end, the last, the finish, and that's all, there is no more. The little Poi dog was called Pau, because he was the last of the family to arrive. The very last one.

Another reason was that when he first barked he could not say "bow-wow", but said "pau-wow" instead. Because the sun hurt his eyes, Pau went back to sleep and dreamed about chasing a big lion around the Figi Islands. Now there are no lions in the Figi Islands, but the little Poi dog had heard his master talk about going there. His master was the Quartermaster Captain.

While he was sound asleep the little Poi dog did not hear his master, the Quartermaster Captain, talking with the Engineer Captain about the ants. It seems that some WAC lady soldiers had complained to the Commander of the Post about some ants in their sugar. Everyone knows that ants do not belong in sugar, but in the Army everything must be done according to Regulations.

The Quartermaster Captain supplied food to everyone on the Post, including the WAC lady soldiers, and any ants in the WAC's sugar would be Quartermaster ants, according to Regulations. But to reach the sugar, the ants walked through a window in the WAC's house. According to Regulations, all houses on the Post are in charge of the Engineer Captain. On their way into the WAC house they would be Engineer ants. In the sugar bowl they would be Quartermaster ants, and on the way out they would be Engineer ants again.

That is why the Poi dog's master, the Quartermaster Captain, and the Engineer Captain were arguing about whether the ants in the WAC's sugar were actually Engineer ants or Quartermaster ants. "We have ant powder", the Poi dog's master said, "to kill real Quartermaster ants... the ones in the sugar, but Regulations says it should not be used on Engineer ants."

"We have ant powder," the Engineer Captain replied, "to kill real Engineer ants walking into the building, but it must not be used on any old Quartermaster ants in the sugar. Why if one *speck* of our Engineer powder got on the tail of a Quartermaster ant, I might be Court Martialed. "

While the little Poi dog slept and slept, and dreamed about chasing lions around the Figi islands, the Quartermaster Captain and the Engineer Captain argued, and argued, and argued. When they were completely exhausted, they decided to take their argument to the Colonel, who was Commander of the Post. His exalted position as Commander of the Post made the Colonel very dignified, and very serious. After the Colonel had listened to the arguments of the Quartermaster Captain and the Engineer Captain for hours, and hours, and hours, he said, "Gentlemen, stop a moment and let me think."

When the Colonel stopped to think it was a very important occasion, so the Quartermaster Captain and the Engineer Captain sat still as little nice. Finally, when his thinking was all finished, the Colonel parted his whiskers and spoke.

"Gentlemen!" he said, (all Officers are gentlemen, according to Regulations) "I have it. All you have to do is to mix the Quartermaster ant powder and the Engineer ant powder, and deliver it to the WACs, who will put it on the ants in their sugar. Then no one will be able to tell if it is Quartermaster powder, or Engineer powder, and Regulations will be satisfied."

"Thank you Colonel," said the Engineer Captain, and saluted.

"Thank you Colonel" said the Quartermaster Captain, and saluted.

With that, they marched away to the Supply Depot to get the ant powder for the WACs.

It was a few weeks later, when the little Poi dog had grown sturdy and strong, that he decided to take off. Now in the Army, to take off means to go somewhere. When a GI leaves his headquarters to go to town, or the Post Exchange, which is the Army store, or to the movies, or somewhere else, he takes off. The little Poi dog wanted to go somewhere, so he took off.

The little Poi dog took off down the street, and he walked and he walked, and he walked. At last he came to the Big Gate of the Post, where he saw an M.P. on duty. The M.P. (which is short for Military Policeman) was immaculately dressed in a sun helmet, leggings, and white gloves, which made him look very important. The little Poi dog was frightened at first, but when he saw that the M.P. was busy, and was not going to ask him any questions, he boldly took off through the gate and scampered across the street.

Across the street two little Hawaiian boys were playing in their garden. Most little Hawaiian boys have gardens, because in Hawaii everything grows. The reason everything grows is that it often rains, even when the sun shines. The Hawaiians call the rain liquid sunshine. The boys' garden had all kinds of flowers, torch ginger, carnations, ginger flowers, and oven orchids. Along the edge of the garden grew hedges of poinsettias and hibiscus.

When the little Poi dog came along, one of the Hawaiian boys said, "Oh look, a Malihini!" Any newcomer in the Islands is called a Malihini, so the boys called Pau a Malihini, because they had never seen him before.

"Let's make him a lei," said the other little boy. "He would look pretty with a lei." Now a lei is a string of flowers put around the necks of newcomers to say "Aloha" to all the Malihinis. Aloha means hello, goodbye, I love you, and many other things, depending on the way you say it.

The little Hawaiian boys wanted to make Pau welcome, so they set to work making a lei of carnations. As soon as the lei was finished they put it around his neck. Pau thought it was beautiful, and he loved the spicy smell, but in a few moments he started to sneeze and sneeze and sneeze. His eyes started to water too, and he was very unhappy.

Now the reason Pau sneezed, and the reason his eyes started to water, and the reason he was very unhappy, was because he was allergic to carnations. To be allergic means that you do not get along with something... you just don't get along

together at all. You may be allergic to meat, or spices, or to certain kinds of weeds and flowers, but Pau was allergic to carnations.

Pau was so unhappy that he shook the lei off his neck and ran down the road as fast as he could go. When he stopped to get his breath he was beside a high fence with a sign on it, "Picture Taking Forbidden-- Kapu. The little Poi dog was not interested in taking any pictures, as he did not have a camera, and he did not know that "Kapu" in Hawaiian means "Keep Out". So he wiggled under the fence.

When Pau looked around he was astonished to find himself at the edge of a big flying field. Straight ahead several young Air Corps officers were loading their gear into a Big Bomber. Just to be friendly Pau walked over and sat down to watch the Officers, turning his head from side to side as he sat watching.

Suddenly a handsome young Bombardier glanced over at Pau and said, "Look man, a Poi dog."

"Lets take him with us", said the Tail Gunner.

"We can't...no room," said the Navigator.

"Sure we can, he will fit in my barracks bag," said the Radio Operator.

"Roger," said the pilot, "put him aboard."

Within an incredibly short space of time Pau was comfortably curled up in a barracks bag which was then loaded in the plane. The giant motors roared, the plane vibrated all over as it swept down the runway, but soon settled into smooth flight, and headed far out to sea. The little Poi dog went to sleep and dreamed about chasing lions around the Figi Islands, even though there are no lions on the Figi islands. When he woke up it was dark, and the big ship still droned on through the night.

The little Poi dog did not know where he was going, but he was happy, and he did not care. And that's how the little Poi dog named Pau went away to the Figi islands.

## The Little Poi Dog Named Pau

### Suggested Illustrations

"they crawled over him on their way to dinner" (show mother and pups under poinsettia hedge.. mountains and clouds in background.)

"poi is a food eaten by Hawaiian boys and girls" (show native boy and girls eating one finger poi from bowl. )

"but they are still poi dogs. " (show nondescript spotted dog with loping ears, tail straight up. )

"dreamed about chasing a big lion" (small poi dog chasing lion.)

"WAC lady soldiers had complained" (show two WACs with ants walking in window and getting in sugar. )

"Quartermaster Captain and Engineer Captain argued and argued, and argued. " (heads of two officers.. faces showing violent tempers.)

"The Colonel parted his whiskers and spoke" (full Colonel with handsome goatee)

"he decided to take off" (rear of dog going down road with tall trees either side.)

"where he saw an M.P. on duty" (show large stone gateway... M.P. dressed as described.)

"the garden had all kinds of flowers" (show native boys in colorful garden.)

"they put it around his neck" (small dog with lei)

"his eyes started to water too" (dog in distress)



"picture taking Forbidden-- Kapu" (show high fence with dog looking at sign.)

"loading their gear into Big Bomber" (show plane on ground, being loaded.)

"Pau was curled up in a barracks bag" (show dog's head sticking out of bag.)

"The big ship droned on through the night" (show plane flying with background of star