

April 1, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

How are you? Are you settled again now that you're back in camp? I suppose you're very busy though with so many changes coming up. I received your letter written on 3/23 from Alice's, but I guess you had just reached there as you didn't say much of what you were doing. Your stay with the Millers must have been grand and I guess they must have enjoyed the hekka dinner. I'll be anxiously awaiting the bobby pins— am down to my last half a dozen now.

I know how you must feel, to have had a few days of freedom and comfort among civilians and in their homes-- and now to get back into the routine of the camp again-- wish we could be there to make things brighter for you-- but I know you won't let it affect you. I saw in the papers that you had something to do with a fried chicken dinner not long ago which was made possible by the donation of a Mrs. Yamada, a school teacher in Hawaii. Seems to me, you certainly get in on all the good feeds! Guess your reputation is well known!

I last wrote you on the 30th; I also sent a letter to Morimoto; is he still there? I got your letter that day which you wrote from Cinn; after supper Peter and I went with Chaplain Huggins to the camp show and saw a stage play, "The Late Christopher Bean". Lt. Albers was supposed to come for me, but something must have turned up, as he didn't show up, so we went with the Chaplain. The play was very good-- saw Capt. Woods again, he had Mrs. Seder and Ann as his guests. After the show, the Chaplain dropped in and we chatted over a cup of tea. We talked about everything under the sun; he must be in his forties, as he talked about remembering the last War. Said he came from a poor farmer's family, so had to work his way through college, he taught and went 11 summer sessions to various colleges to finish; then got his theological training at Auburn N.Y. around 1930. Had taught school too. His wife teaches junior high in Ithaca, N.Y. She looks much younger from his pictures of his family. He said that pretty soon you should become a captain; that after 6 months, you become eligible for promotion-- do you think that will come about soon? How about Yamada-- had he been promoted yet? Has Chaplain West said anything about the letter I sent him?

Yesterday, Friday, I went shopping in Waipahu; saw Horace, Doddo, Arakwa, Maruyasu, etc. Also got the negatives from Ishihara's of ur that Hide took, and left them at Tanji's. Ordered some candy for my Sunday School kids from the Ishihara's. We haven't seen a bit of Easter candy yet this year, or anything Easterish for that matter in the stores. So we are substituting with fruit drops made by Hawn' Pine Co-- all assorted colors. The kids have made their baskets out of paper bags, and colored them with crayon. George Fukuoka is donating some ice-cream for the kids, so we should have a nice Easter party. Horace said the Waipahu Sunday School is having ice cream and cookies.

I brought Peter and Bunnie back from school; being their last day before vacation, they were loaded down with Easter baskets, eggs, books, etc. Each child got to bring two books home to read during vacation; they had an Easter egg hunt, and Peter found one egg. How did you like his Easter story? He was very proud of it, and said it was the best and longest one in his room! He is such a rascal-- you know they have been taking up Red Cross donations-- for each donation you get a pin; well, instead of giving all at once, he's given small amounts three times-- and gotten 3 pins! He says he is proud to have so many pins, and goes around wearing all three at once!

After Lunch Brother and Bunnie came over to play awhile. Then a man from the Army intelligence came to see me re Moto Iguchi and Morris Shimabukuro; they are both working for the OM dept and had given your name and mine as references. Mrs. Dixon called, and said hello to you. She is so excited about the coming baby.



Baby things are very hard to get here now; I understand it is almost impossible to find diapers - Joan says that women about to give birth come in and beg her for even a dozen dippers. Am I glad I have enough for Jane.

Ted Rhea of Palama called and asked for the Lester Stone's address; Lester had promised to give him his sail boat at the Yacht Club; Mr. Rhea is going to give it to the Sea Scouts, so wanted to write Lester about it. He sent his best regards to you.

Peter played at Dickie's until supper time. He is able to walk back and forth by himself now, so I don't worry about it. Dickie was sick with a cold part of this week, but is all right now.

This morning we got up late-- Saturday is the only day we can sleep late, as Peter has no school. Then I got him to clean up his toy corner in the parlor- I wish you could see it since Xmas-- all piled up with junk. He did a good job cleaning up, grumbled as usual about it, but finally got it done. He is over at Dickie's again, and is having lunch there. Jane is taking her nap now, just gave her the 11 a.m. feeding. She is such a darling-- grows every day. I wish you could see her, and listen to her laugh. She just beams all over. I have been telling her about you-- that is point to your picture on the piano and say "Daddy"-- and believe it or not, when I say it, she turns her head now and looks at your picture. When I say "There is your brother Peter"? she looks all around for him! We think she is a genius, what do you think?

Obachan got a letter from your mother yesterday; she said she was just getting around to being able to write again, but her shoulder is all right now. She had received the big picture I forwarded to her of you. Said they had a memorial service for Kyoko Hongo that died.

Tonight I have invited Herbert, Kiyō and Shizue for dinner. Shizue is coming from Hilo today for the teachers convention. I got some thick steaks from Dodo; frozen mainland kind, but looks good. Will have steak, rice, mashed potatoes, peas, salad, some butterscotch rolls, fruit jello. Wish you could be here to join us. Herbert is such a droop though- they will be over about 7, as Herbert works late.

Tomorrow after Sunday school, the Suzuki's have invited us and the Ikedas for a noodle lunch at 1. She is making it Chinese style, medium soft fried kind. Then I will go to the Pilgrim Fellowship with Jiro by 6, and have Church afterwards. We are having just a general get-together night at Church this Sunday- no speaker. As Shigemi calls it, a "crab party"-- where everyone can bring out their gripes, etc!

Yoshie Higuchi's brother, Sakae, is making a cross for our Sunday School altar. I got some silver paint for it, as can't get any gold paint. I hope to have a nice Easter program for the kids.

So another month has gone by-- this is April Fools, isn't it? Someone predicts the war will be over by July 5, you know all these crackpots that predict. Wonder if any of them will come true.

Will you send me the addresses of the friends you stayed with, and give me a list of their children and ages, so I can correspond with them? Maybe I can find something Hawaiian to send them. By the way, did your friend, Ken Metcalf ever get the shorts I sent him?

What did you do about the Current Religious Thought subscription. Just got a notice it has expired; are you renewing it, or shall I continue it to be sent here? I enjoy it a lot; has good articles in it. Also did you subscribe to the Pacific Citizen for me?

Well, this is all now, dear. Please take care of yourself; we miss you so much. Peter always says grace at the table, and says, "Thank thee for the food we eat, and bless Daddy", Amen.

Love,

*Hiako*

P.S. "Sparky" just came over with his girl friend. Said hello to you. Is now a Sgt.