

April 12, 1945

Dearest Hiro,

Yesterday I received your letter dated 4/2 and mailed 4/4 from Italy; we wondered where you were and am relieved to know you are back in familiar territory. We know now too that you have been through some tough combat again, and hope and pray that you and the boys are all safe and well. The papers have been writing up a lot of the 442nd, how you captured Mt. Belevedere, Massa, and other points there. It must have been tough going, as it said your group spearheaded the drive, but we are proud that as usual you delivered the goods.

Each time you go into combat we keep our fingers crossed, not only for you, but for all our dear friends, and wonder when the casualty notices will be coming in. This waiting is so difficult, but we are learning to become used to it by now-- and pray that God is watching over you, and will bring you back safely to us. The sad news of President Roosevelt's death came today-- it was announced here about 12:30 noon; I didn't know about it till the 2 o'clock news as I drove up to get Peter, and heard it over the car radio. We were all stunned; the Tavern was closing, all the service men were streaming out, with long faces, groups were gathered on the corner discussing it, schools were let out, and Territorial and City and County offices plus some big business houses in town closed soon thereafter. We have been keeping tuned to KCM all afternoon, listening to the reports and comments of men all over the world on his passing; he was truly a great man, and died a martyr for the people. We have been wondering how your group received the news; we hope that throughout the world, the peace that he worked so hard for will soon become a reality. The news on the other hand of the war's progress is very good today; troops are supposed to have crossed the Elbe River, and are in the suburbs of Berlin. They think that within this weekend, the battle for Berlin will be on and maybe, hopefully, finished.

I last wrote you on Tuesday the 10th. I will continue to put the regular clipper stamp on as I imagine it does get across the Pacific faster that way. Your letters from Italy have been coming in 8 days, which is very fast time; much better than in France. Peter is hopeful someday he too may visit the places you've seen, but you know him, he says he doesn't want to stop there, but go around the world. We hope that will be possible someday-- He is in that adventurous spirit stage now, reads the National Geographic, studies maps, charts, etc, and dreams about far-away places.

Yesterday I spent the day in the country visiting cases. The days seem to go by so quickly somehow, I suppose because we are all so busy, and haven't too much time to sit around and mope. Babachan and I are kept running around all day; Jane is such an active child; she climbs chairs, pines, beds, and today, I made a couple of cakes, and guess what she did; she was running in and out of the kitchen, poking her finger in the frosting and licking her fingers. She knew it was wrong, as she would hurry and hide each time; we thought she was up to something, and sure enough.

I wish you could see her talk to your picture, and throw kisses to it, and put her face against it. She says when I say "Where has daddy gone"; she will answer "Bye bye" then make sounds like an airplane, as she thinks you've gone away on a plane.

She follows Peter all over the place, poor Peter hasn't a moment of peace with her around; if he's drawing, she bothers him; if he's reading she wants his book, etc. She even climbs on the big chair by the lamp and "reads" a reader's Digest, and is she cute while doing it. The only bad habit she has is about 3 a.m. she awakens every night and cries, so I take her to the bathroom; then she has to get into my bed and sleep with me; so am wondering what she'll do when you come home. Do you remember how we used to have Peter sleep with us too-- now we'll have to put two children in with us!



Peter is growing every day it seems. His feet are about as big as mine, so must take after the Higuchi's. I think by this summer he will have to get all new pants made again, as he is filling in all over, and growing like a weed. I ordered some shorts like yours from Montgomery Ward, and as he is proud of them, makes him feel grown up I guess.

He makes very good grades at school; 100 almost every day in spelling and math—guess he must have his mother's brains after all!

Today I awoke to find a flat tire on the front tire. So good old Kito fixed it for me. I don't know what we would do without him, he is always so helpful. Mrs. Tatekawa was over for a while too; she thinks her next son, now in high school will be drafted in June. The ~~Tatekawa~~ family just had their fourth son drafted in; it is really tough to see these youngsters just turned 18 go in.

I went to Aiea today to see Mr. Ferreira and a few clients. Stopped in to say hello to Mrs. Fujinaga, and she gave me some vegetables again. She is always so nice to me. Her thing has five girls already, the youngest is Jane's age, and she thinks she's pregnant again. If it's a boy, it will be alright, but if another daughter, she says it will be the last!

I had my car serviced yesterday, the spark plugs went wrong, but I think it's all right now. They are so accommodating to me, as busy as they are, always give me super service.

I hope you'll be seeing the Malenotti's again. If you can ask her without hurting her feelings, will you ask her what she needs, then maybe I can send those things to her.

The pictures you enclosed were good; is that Col. Pence with you? It looked like him. Also thanks for endorsing the check; I will bank it tomorrow.

Tomorrow I go to town. I plan to do some shopping in the morning, go to the bank, Hawaiian Board, etc. As they've having a special staff meeting at 2, I will work in the afternoon instead of morning. In the evening, we plan to see the play "Life with Father" at the Central School. The Suzuki's are taking me, and the Iguchi girls and Betty Kang too. Saturday I will do some shopping in Waipahu; Sunday I go to Waialua to speak at the YMC conference. So ends another week.

Obachan is enclosing her letter to you—you know how difficult it is for her to write in English, but it is good practice for her. I have to get Peter in the "mood" to write, most of the time he dislikes writing to anyone, hasn't got the patience, and makes lots of mistakes as he rushes through!

I called up Horace and gave him your new APO; he said he had heard from his brother in Germany, so wondered if your group was split up. I think I told you I gave him an aloha shirt for helping me with my income tax returns; he is always so nice about it.

I am buying a coffee table this Saturday; a rattan one from Miss Alameda, my former CP adviser at Waipahu school; she is going to the mainland soon, and is disposing of her stuff. It will be a welcome addition, as we are always inconvenienced when we want to serve cokes or something, as we haven't a table in the parlor. It will cost me \$20.00 but I think it will be worth it, as it is something I can always keep.

The perfume you sent is wonderful; but \$15.00 is enough to spend on it, dear, so don't buy any Chanel or anything else. It is very potent, just a little drop will last a whole day, so at that rate I should have them for years to come. I've only used the Parfum des Parfums so far, as it was open when it arrived. The others are still sealed.

Is there any food you want. If so please send me a written request; I have to take it

to the food control office to get a permit. We can only send out food that is manufactured here in the Islands, but no coffee or pineapples or juice.

Good night dearest, we miss you so much. We pray for an early peace. Love, Akiho  
Take care of yourself.

PS There was an article in the Star-Bulletin yesterday about Milton Sogawa's brave act in rescuing a wounded soldier.