

December 4, 1943

Dear Mom;

Your letter mailed on the 29th arrived today which is pretty good time. That makes two this week but then it also means that next week I won't get another letter for quite a while. It also received a letter from Shigeo Yoshida and one from Noboru Okada. It helps to build morale of the chaplain.

I did receive the razor blades and the book. I received it while in the Chaplain's School and have acknowledged same to Shigemi.

Those last pictures of Peter's were rather blurred. It certainly looks as if he is trying his best to smile. I miss him an awful lot - I notice by the picture that he has a new pair of shorts. He also has a habit of sticking his hands in his pockets which don't look so good - guess all children with pockets for the first time have a tendency of sticking their hands in them. He also looks as if he has gained in height -

Did you receive the last checks I sent you. I mailed it special delivery and it was for two hundred dollars. From January you will get a check directly from the War Dept for 175.00 dollars. I am planning to buy a bond a month with the extra 25 dollars if I don't use it.

What about Peter's Schooling for next year. We will have to save for that. It won't be too difficult saving the sum I am sure unless there is a possibility of getting another scholarship for him next year.

This noon Scratchy came over and told me that he had sashimi in his barracks - we had a feed although the shoyu they have here sort of spoils the taste of the food. Last evening while visiting Toshi Anzai, one of the mainland boys just home from furlough told me that they had special food in the kitchen. The boys had cooked some rice and we had tsukemono, umeboshi and canned abalone. There is no such thing as canned abalone in this part of the country. The umeboshi was made from green apricots - and it really looked and tasted like the real McCoy. It was indeed a treat.

I can just picture Peter coming home from the Barber Shop. Remember the first time we allowed him to go to the Barber shop alone. It was a near riot in the house to think Peter was allowed to go alone to the store. Nevertheless the traffic in front of Lehua store is pretty bad - and so please caution Peter about it,

It is so nice of Grace to take Obachan to the show - with the new baby coming Obachan's days will be just full. I suppose she is looking forward to the event just as much as you and I. The baby no doubt will be well looked after. Your letters arrive here pretty much in time - with Christmas coming however, and with all the mail coming out of the islands - perhaps the next few months will be pretty lean months for us as far as mail is concerned.

In the last pictures I sent you - I probably look as if I gained some weight. I weigh more today than I ever had at home but my waist is much smaller and my face hasn't filled very much. Perhaps I have just gotten a little more solid. One would with all the hiking and sleeping on the cold ground and all the food we eat.



Dec. 5, 1943

Went to bed about ten last evening after visiting scratchy. They have so much fun in their barracks. I went to bed at ten o'clock and had just got into bed when the Headquarters CQ woke me up saying that there was an important message for me at the HQ. I thought it was a wire from you and ran with all haste in my pajamas only to arrive and learn that it was a message of some kids in trouble.

It won't be long now - when you will be a mother all over again. I am anxiously awaiting to hear of the word - It worries me no end that I can not be with you this time to pace the floors but then Obachan will be there.

The casualty announcements of our boys in Italy are mounting I suppose in the papers back home. I hope and pray that this war may not be too long now to claim more of our boys, and other boys involved. You haven't heard anything concerning Tak yet I suppose. He lives a charmed life and know that he'll come through all right. However, in this war - the bullets don't carry anyone's name - you can't very well say that "there's no bullet with my name on it" - most of the bullets just have "to whom it may concern" on it.

This morning I got up at eight - what luxury. I led the Bible class and Chaplain West gave the sermon - next Sunday I give the sermon. The group attending the chapel here is supposed to be the largest in the camp. Our boys as a whole are very well behaved although there are a few that make it tough for the rest. This afternoon I have several things I must do after which I go out to visit with the recruits in their bivouac. Most of the recruits are from the mainland U.S. and several whom I knew in LA.

I get a big kick meeting boys from all over the mainland - some with a distinct southern accent much more pronounced than Major Gee's and some speaking in typical Brooklynese. Some with the Boston accent and the majority in just plain Hawaiian English. However, the latter makes it more homelike for me - and kind of adds zest to this swamps of Mississippi.

Those pictures of Peter and you was just what I needed. I suppose it is difficult to get films for our camera but I am sure that Henry could help you get some - its just as tough getting films here. I took some pictures of Toshi Anzai and Dollar standing with me - and hope to send it to you next week.

Received a Xmas greeting from the president of Oberlin College "to all Oberlin men in service". Guess I had to get into the army to get recognition from them.. Next week I expect to go out on Bivouac until Friday - however, I hope to keep up correspondence with you. if by

Goodbye for the present - this is the third letter I am writing this week - and will have to do until I come back again from the outing.

Love

*Leo*