

December 6, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

At long last on Monday the 4th, I received your letter written Nov. 22nd, and mailed on the 23d. I was so relieved to get it, as I was frankly getting awfully worried, as your last letter had been written on Nov. 6th. I guess by now you're behind that haystack, taking things easy—I hope so anyways. We were worried about your group, as we have been following the news of the 7th Army, and felt that perhaps your group was involved some way with them. It must be tough going with snow and cold to combat too, but please take care of yourself.

I last wrote you on Dec. 4th. I went to Waipahu and shopped that day, then met my High School club, then to Ewa. Ewa is off bounds for Navy and Marine men now—they had some trouble there with the civilians—so it certainly is a dead place. The Army can still go there—but it is tough on the Navy boys I think, just because a few bad eggs got involved. I saw Mrs. Sugimoto by the store—Chieko was married you know—her husband is stationed on this Island. She sent her regards to you. Her boy in the army is also on this island yet. I dropped in at Kiyo's as I had done some marketing for her. She gave Jane a birthday present—a pair of coveralls. It was Jane's first birthday present. I was so glad to get your letter at the post office that day. I also got several Xmas packages from the folks in Cinn. We couldn't wait till Xmas so opened them. Obachan got some nice underwear, etc, and some money. Peter got some Books from Hank and Vi; a suit from Alice and Sho, and some candy from Babe and George. Jane got a pinafore from Barbie, and a toy from Babe. Hank had previously sent a birthday present for Jane, a pair of pajamas. I got a fruit cake from Babe, and a slip from Alice. They were certainly generous to us—I could only find books here, so sent them to the kids. I got a nice letter from Anson Arugue's wife. They were still in the east, but she said it was possible we might be seeing Anson again. She is a former social worker too, I think I told you about her. Her name is Martha.

Yesterday I went to the Y for my weekly staff meeting. Jane had been quite fussy the night before, and was up almost every two hours. She is teething again, another of her uppers are coming through. So I was kind of bleary-eyed yesterday. Florence Amano who is our stenographer in the dept. has a boy friend with your gang; he had written they were resting, and got to go skiing, etc. I hope you had a nice time—and some good rest and food. I had lunch at the Y; picked up Peter and Bunny and went to my elementary school club. I was so glad to get your letter yesterday, which was written on 11/7/ 8/ and 9. The soyu must have tasted grand—I wish we could send some to you too. I'll write Hank and thank him. I guess you must just about have a grocery store by now, with fruit cake, nori, soyu, etc. all being sent you. Obachan said while I was out some one from the Navy came to take inventory on our house, wanted to know how many rooms we had, who lived here, occupation, nationality, etc. I certainly hope it doesn't mean they intend taking it over. However, I understand they surveyed other homes yesterday, so I wonder what's cooking. We got letters from Hank, Alice and Babe yesterday. They hadn't heard from you for some time, but had received the joint Xmas card you sent them. They were sorry to hear that George Zaima is hospitalized for trench feet and hernia; Ken Nakazawa's son, Carl, was wounded. It seems Carl's wife has two sisters, both of them married to boys with you. One of the boys was killed, and the other was wounded too, so it means the husbands of all three sisters are casualties. The one that died saw his baby son, only two hours, before he went overseas—isn't that tough. I wonder what their widows will do. Alice says they are taking it bravely—and that the Cinn. papers gave them a nice write up. Hank enclosed a clipping from the editorial column of one of the papers there, where a social was given by Dr. Rich of the church for some 150 nissai. It was a very nice column—this man Dr. Rich must be a nice person. The members of the Church gave the party—and Dr. Rich even danced with the nissai gals, etc. Said that he was having a memorial service with Rev. Yamazaki (Episcopal) for a Sgt. Paul Kitsui. Hank says that Dr. Rich and the man who wrote the column, a Mr. Segal, are both great friends of the nissai. Some of the boys from Ft. Snelling came down on their furlough for it too.

Mrs. Zaima is working for a family in Cinn. as a maid, and has one day a week off. So she isn't living with them anymore. Paul Zaima was already at a port of embarkation with his gang—so his wife will come and stay with Hank and Vi until she can make plans. Said most of the wives at Shelby had left as their husbands had gone. It must be tough on them—having to make new readjustments again. How glad I am we stayed here—

Calvin Saito and his brother George Saito, both good friends of Hank's were both killed did you know either of them? They were friends of my mom's too. Their mother went crazy after the birth of the youngest child. Their father, took the baby, strapped him on his back and used to work as a gardener that way in L.A. Then now both boys volunteered and have given their lives—what could be a sadder story. Hank had seen them before they left for overseas I think, so he felt very badly about it.

Alice wrote that Sho's defferment is over Dec. 30, so he may be drafted. He is very busy now and is also coaching a nissia basketball team. They all had Thanksgiving at Hank's, with Alice and Babe making the pumpkin pies for the turkey dinner. Fuzzie has 4-5 boarders staying with her, so is very busy, no wonder I haven't heard from her for some time

Babe left for Long Island on Nov. 27th with Pattie. George is now stationed at the Mason General Hospital, in Brentwood, Long Island, N. Y. Babe had gone up to Carlisle when George finished, and they searched 5 days for a house, but had no luck. Then George must have struck luck, as some haole Doctor and his wife, probably with him, offered to share their house with George. So he wired Babe to come, so she has gone to live there for 3 months. He has been given a chance to become a specialist, and is taking up psychiatric cases, actual combat cases from the war front. If he makes good he will be given an additional 6 months training in it before being shipped overseas, so at least Babe can be with him for a little while. She said that Patti missed her daddy so much, I can well imagine, knowing how much Peter misses you, and Jane would too. You can write them as follows 1st Lt. George Y. Abe, 22 Evelyn, Babylon, Long Island, N. Y. His work address is 19th JMW, Mason General Hospital, Brentwood, Long Island, N. Y. We haven't heard directly yet from Babe since she moved— but guess everything is all right.

I was glad to hear you went to see Nelson Bell. I hope you finally did get to see him. He's been overseas for several years now it seems, should be due for a furlough I should think. I just wrote to Beth the other day— what a small world this is after all. She is still in Claremont with her girl, who is now about 10 yrs old I think.

While Babe is gone, the Abe's are taking over the apt, so they'll still be able to keep it when she comes back. Alice is going to miss her a lot, said that Tommy and Pattie were inseparable.

Did I tell you I saw Harry Fujiyoshi's ex- Clara Kurano the other day at the Y? She is teaching at Kahuku this year. Says one of her brothers with is with you, he's an older person about 35. Harry was drafted, and is now stationed on this Island. Best thing that ever happened to him, I would say— might perk him up a bit.

I went to Mrs. Suzuki's this morning, and she gave me a two hour massage. I feel so much better now. They are so good to us. We were discussing school next year. Miss Coates says that Punahou will discontinue the branch at Waipahu next year, so all the kids will have to go to town. As the bus fee alone will be \$11 - \$12 a month, plus tuition, I don't think it'll be worth all the wear and tear. So I may change him to August Ahrens and have him commute on Muraoka's bus what do you think about it. If only the housing situation out here would become definite— we don't know if we can stay, or if we have to move or what. Still the housing situation in town is terrible, and I hardly think I'll be able to find anything there. Sam has suggested we move to Hilo - but I didn't know about that. Anyways I won't worry about it until they give us the high sign to move.

I hope you had some tureky for Thanksgiving dear— please tell us about it. Peter is looking forward to the insignias you're going to send him. Don't forget to send him some French coins, and a doll for Jane.

Please take care of yourself, dear— if you could only be home by Xmas. Love Hiako

P.S. I will send you the Dry hand knife this week. Kaye A. is getting one for me. Will ask Sam for the tea. I'll put your check in the bank when it arrives. I'll put your for it dear. I'd rather save it for our future trip.