

December 17, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

Here it is the end of another week— and almost the end of another year— how we keep hoping and praying that this war would end soon— so that the New Year will really be a peaceful one, and you can come home to us.

We keep hoping that your group is getting a nice long rest— and that wherever you go from now on will be easier for all of you. I guess it must be awfully cold there by now— we have a tang in the air here too— and we Kanaka's can feel it, and how much more you must feel the change.

I last wrote you on Friday the 15th. I hope that most of our Xmas parcels have reached you by now too— I went shopping in Waipahu on Friday, to the bank, picked up the kids, and went to my Aiea club. I wrote to Clem Oyama that day, as I noticed in the Pacific Citizen that he and someone else had opened a company the Pacific Mercantile Co in Denver which deals in Japanese foods. So I wrote him for a price list, as there are many folks here who would like to send such foods to their boys over there, and I asked if he could do it, if a written request from these boys came to him. If he says he can, I'll let you know, and if you write him directly he can possibly send you the soyu, and other things you need. We only wish we could do it from here, but we can't send out any foods I told you, so even soyu would be tabu. I received a nice letter from Emiko Abe. She is expecting her baby any day now— said that Capt. Fukuda was home for 2 months, then got sent back to Italy. That must have been hard on him, seeing his wife and new baby, and having to leave them again. She sent me some snapshots of herself holding the Capt's baby, and she certainly looked big in her opu already! ~~She~~ said that Abe had been hospitalized five times already for various ailments, fevers, hemorrhoids, etc! We got some Xmas gifts that day from George Fuji and his wife— Toshi-chan, who used to stay with your family. Grace dropped by to see me that day. I noticed Jane started to try to stand by herself without holding on. Today she pushed her little scooter and walked a little while holding on to it, so maybe soon she'll be walking by herself before we know it. She is such a darling baby, and every day I wish you were here to see her grow. Peter got weighed and measured the other day in school; he had gained five pounds since the last exam, but is still the shortest one in his class— but then none of his ancestors were tall, so I guess he won't be particularly a giant! I started Jane on some craped meat that day— but today she broke out all over on her face with a rash, so maybe its too strong for her yet. Jane grabbed hold of my glasses and they fell and broke into pieces that day. Obachan had just tried on a new dress on her, and I was holding her, and she got rumbunctious and grabbed them!

Yesterday I went to town. I took Peter and Dickie in with me. Peter wanted to go play with Mona, so I left him at Ai Young's all day. Dickie went shopping around town by himself. He's getting to be quite a man, and Grace tells me he is going to take dancing at school, which he doesn't want to! You know, growing pains. He has pimples on his face now, so is going through puberty I guess. By the time you get back, he'll be a young man. I had to spend most of the time at the Y, as we had an adviser's luncheon. It was very nice. Sat next to Mrs. Allan Hackett. Her husband is the new minister at Central Union church, a very nice couple. Central Union bought them a house up in Manoa a four-bedroom affair! Wow, can you imagine that. Central U. has an assistant pastor now too, who recently arrived from the mainland too. Sometime ago I heard that Mel Harter is doing religious work among trailer camps in Calif. now— bet he wished he was back here in the Islands. Do you ever hear from him? I left my glasses to be fixed, and they were so obliging; had them done by 4 p.m. I decided to invest in a stronger frame, so the whole thing cost me \$20.00! Isn't that terrific! Then I splurged and bought myself a couple of new dresses— bright colored ones too— decided I need something gay for the holidays. I wish you could see them; one is a sort of tomato red gaberdine sport dress; the other a salmon shade jersey dress with black sequin trimmings. I suppose though all this sounds creek to you, but they really are nice— and I'll consider

it your ~~Ma~~Christmas gift to me-- so thank you so much dear. I wanted to get me a pair of black dress shoes to go with them, but had no luck. It is so hard to find shoes these days-- especially in my size-- saw Lucille Hanifin at the shoe store with her daughter, she is a darling baby, blue eyes, long lashes, and such a sweet smile. Lucille sent her best regards to you. She is working for the American Red Cross Home Service dept. now, and said that Helene Morgan is very anxious to get me to ~~work~~ there too.

I tried to finish up my Xmas shopping, but you never saw such a mad rush as yesterday. I guess 7th and Broadway was never like that-- the crowds, the shortage of clerks, the scarcity of merchandise-- it is really something Honolulu never experienced before. There is no Xmas wrapping paper or stickers, or ribbon in town-- so I'm using some of last years paper-- used stuff, but it is quite nice. Good thing I saved it. You remember how every Xmas I would fold them all up as we would unwrap each gift for some future use-- it certainly came in handy this year. I left my car at the Hawaiian Board as the parking problem is also terrific. When Dickie and I got to the car it was about 5:30 already. I found the spring in my accelerator had broken, and I couldn't move the car. Mr. Carbaugh was still there and he tried to fix it, but to no avail. So I called up Melim's and Mr. Yamasaki personally came right away with a mechanic in a few jiffies, and fixed it for me. He wouldn't let me pay him at all-- he said it was the least he could do for me when you're doing so much for his son. He was rather worried about his boy though-- said he hadn't heard from him for a month and a half, and he has always written regularly to them. So you see him? He is his only son you know. We reminisced about the trip we took in 1938, do you remember how he was on the same boat with us-- I really was lucky, as at that hour, I couldn't have gotten any garage to fix it-- and I was just wondering if I would have to spend the night in town with Ai Young with Peter and Dickie to put up too. I guess God is really good to us-- things always seem to work out right when I'm up against it. So then I went to get Peter, and we didn't get home till about 6:30. I found the Sept. war Bond from you at the post office. It is funny it is just getting here now-- as I should be getting Sept. Oct. Nov. and soon Dec. bonds too. I got a nice thank you letter from Pattie Himomura Yamamura-- I had sent her boy a birthday present. She sent her regards to you.

Today I had Sunday School. We rehearsed for our program next Sunday. Then Peter went to play at the Iguchi's with Joichi. Kozo Yoneda was there too, and the three had a grand time. He had lunch there-- and later went to the Pearl City show, and walked back with Kozo. At supper he said he wasn't hungry, no wonder as he had only eaten: 4 tuna sandwiches, 2 glasses of milk, 1 hamburger, 1 ice cream cone, 2 shaved ices, and 1 small carton of ice cream! Mrs. Iguchi had also given him 10 cents to buy anything else with? Wow what a boy! We had saimin for supper. Mrs. Iguchi gave us some today, plus, eggs and vegetables. She is always so nice to us.

Then I took Margaret to Church. Jiro didn't go tonight, as he and his wife are down with the flu. Grace has the flu too-- so many seem to be down with it now. We had a nice service, small crowd though. The kids are putting on "Why the Chimes Rang" at August Ahrens school this week, for four nights beginning Wednesday night. They have put a lot of time and effort into it. Even the crew of some 50 has given up all their spare time to put it over. 300 printed invitation were issued too-- so we hope to have a nice group, particularly on Friday night-- as that will be the "dress night"--- the Waipahu Y's will usher in gowns! On next Sunday, at 6, we will have a Family night worship service at church; then from 7:30 the annual Xmas party at our house. The kids are bringing grab bag gifts-- and eats too. Hide is in charge of it, so it should be fun. Then they plan to go to midnight service at George Coale's church in Aiea-- the provost marshall has given special permission on that night for people to go to midnight services, and the minister can issue passes which will be honored in court, in case you get tagged after curfew. Xmas day I guess we'll just stay home, as most likely people will drop in. It will be a lonesome Xmas again for us - and I'll be wishing every minute that you could be with us.

This week will be a busy one for me-- with programs, etc to put on. I hope I can rest up next week. I'll be sure to thank the Iguchi's for the gift they sent you-- also the gift from Billie. Incidentally I am filing in the income tax exemption declaration this week-- I will claim all the dependents, Peter, Jane and Obachan and will file for you.

So don't worry about it. Morace will help me in March when we have to file our tax returns. He is such a grand person.

Incidentally the play by the church is being dedicated to you and the boys from our church in the service— isn't that a thoughtful gesture. We only wish you could all be with us to enjoy it.

Mrs. Tester was at the advisers luncheon yesterday. She asked me about Jane, and I felt so badly, as I couldn't ask her how her baby was. She is taking it very bravely and Keith and she have joined in the Church affairs already. It is one way to forget one's sorrow I guess. although it must be difficult. I am sure I would need a lot of moral support if anything like that every haprend to Peter or Jane.

The Y is having a tough time getting the council started in Waipahu again. You know the chairman of it, well she doesn't want to relinquish her chairmanship of it, and yet isn't being active enough— she was quite rude to the group when we met there at her home last month, and it was truly discouraging. I don't know what the solution of it will ever be while those two seem to hold the power over everyone in the community, and frankly, I am sure you wouldn't want to kow tow to them when you get back. It is really discouraging when a progressive group wants to do anything, to feel that a sort of dictatorship exists in that town, and they have to be consulted about any thing and everything! For example, the kindergarten goes into the red frequently, and the Church has to underwrite it. Do you suppose we get any support from the plantation— no— neither moral nor financial— and yet they take it for granted we will cater to them— it is quite a problem. Personally I don't see any change this war has brought about toward making our plantation town any more democratic -- nor progressive -- nor active in social reform, etc- and I think it is a shame, as they don't realize that the future Hawaii will have to be progressive, and not to keep people in the medieval stages. It is a real challenge to thinking people, and I am sure more so a challenge to a Church.

Jane just woke up, so I think I'd better close. It's almost 10 p.m. now, soon I'll listen to the news and then to bed.

Good night, dearest, take care of yourself— a Merry Xmas to you and the boys, and all my love to you.

Kiaho

P.S. Monday morning:

Last night's 10 p.m. news announced that the War Dept. has revoked the order restricting Japanese from the Western Defense Command and effective midnight Jan. 2nd 1945, all those proved loyal can return to their homes! That is the best news we've had for a long time. Obachan says it is the nicest Xmas present she ever got-- and feels like a free woman now! I'm sure that it will help to boost the morale of your boys up a 100 percent-- to be able to have their families and loved ones go back to what was once home-- the old saying "The gods reward those who wait" certainly comes true-- it's been a long wait-- but worth it, to be proved that our group are loyal Americans and want to do their part with the rest of the nation.