

Feb. 7, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

How are you? You're still out on a bivouac aren't you? Please take care of yourself. We're all well and Peter and Jane are growing. Peter is now 47 1/2 inches tall. You would be surprised to see how he's grown; his legs are getting longer, and his body shape is changing. He has grown up a lot too, doesn't crave so much affection, and doesn't like to be pampered. He has his cute moments though, like when he wants to crawl into bed with me to warm him up. He adores Jane, and you should see him shake the rattle for her, and talk baby talk to her. Yesterday he went to the Pearl City show for the matinee, I drove up a bunch of the children. He saw Osa Johnson's picture "I Married Adventure", plus a couple of serials all full of Nazi spy intrigues, and he loved it. He brought home a list of books he had read the first semester at school, there were 14 books on the list; and a few of them were 3d grade books. I guess they will mail his report card to me this week, and I'll let you know what they say.

I last wrote you on the 4th. I lent Kito my car to go to a funeral for one of his in-laws who died. He in turn had Dickie fix my headlights for me, and scrape off the blackout lights. Now we can drive with all the paint off from the hood down; it is just as good as pre-war lights, and in fact brighter as all the lights are concentrated downwards. As the paint was baked on before, Dickie had to scrape it off and use some kind of a solvent to get it off, it was quite a job. I weighed Jane on the 4th, she was 10 lb. 11oz. Peter went over to Dickie's to play in the afternoon, and had a grand time.

On Saturday Peter played at Dickie's again. I got a letter from Helen Hoshino; I had written her previously regarding Mrs. Abiko; Mrs. H. sends her best regards to you. Jiro brought us some more vegetables from his garden, brocolli, lettuce and string beans. I made some date bars and took them over to the Suzuki's and Grace; and brought Peter back. When I got back and was making supper, Chaplain Kenneth Huggins dropped in. He is stationed near us, and has been on another island for over a yr, and was just transferred here. He said he thought your name sounded familiar, were you ever at Auburn Theological school around 1930? That's where he graduated from; his home is in Syracuse, N.Y. He is a man about 40 I think. Had heard about me through Chaplain Jongewaard and also through Shigemi. Just as we were talking, who should come but Shigemi, Molly, Betty Hiraoka and a soldier. They were going to the Tavern for a party that Kenneth Mau was giving, it was his birthday; so they dropped in to say hello. The girls looked nice, with corsages, etc. Chaplain Huggins was from the island where Kenneth Masuoka lives, so he knew many of the Church workers there; said he had been billeted in a \$10,000 home over there, and now is in a plain barracks. What a contrast. After supper, Jiro and wife came over. Their children were at the grandmothers for the weekend, so they felt lonely and came to keep us company. We had a nice chat about various things. He is a very close friend of your assistant, Masami Yamato, and they correspond frequently.

Yesterday I drove the kids up to the Sunday School. Peter went to the show. In the evening Grace took me, Margaret, and some of the P.C. girls to hear Dr. Cary speak on Poston. I sat next to Mrs. Cary; they had had dinner with the Lodge's, so Mr. Lodge introduced Mr. Cary; Horace was in charge of the program. They had a full house, and the talk and pictures were very interesting. He had colored slides like Mr. Lodge has. It certainly brought home to us the hardships they are going through in those camps. A collection was taken up for the Friends' Society. Dr. Cary spoke highly of the Pacific Citizen, and brought a sample copy of it out. John Beck brought his Ewa gang too. We had several service men in the group, and all in all it was a very educational evening. The Cosmopolitan YMC served Parti-Pak and snails afterwards.

I saw Mae and thanked her for the birthday gift to you; she said she had heard from you already; I've called up the Yoshida's several times, but no answer. Mae said she would tell them about getting your gift. Before the program we sang hymns; Aiko was the songleader; she said, "Let's sing our Reverend's favorite song, 'Now the Vesper Bells are Ringing'". So we all sang, and I felt kind of weepy seeing your empty chair on the platform. We stopped at Dr. Chandler's on the way home; he is going someplace so I wanted to say good bye to him, but no one was home. I got back about 9 p.m. Mama had an awful time with Jane while I was gone, shw said she was so fussy and wouldn't sleep. Consequently she was very tired, and she slept straight through last night from about 9:00 to 4:30 a.m. this morning before shw wanted her feeding! I hope that she is going to sleep through like that every night now. So I got a lot of sleep for once last night. I've just given her the 11 a.m. feeding, and she's sleeping. Pretty soon when obachan is through with the laundry(of which there is a pile every day) I'll make lunch and wait for Peter to come home about 12:30. Our washing machine has been acting funny; the rubber seemed to burn and it smelled; Kito came over twice to fix it; he says he thinks it needs new rubber lining someplace. Whom should I call to get it serviced, will you let me know? Kito is so helpful, I don't know what we would do without his help, we're always calling on him for one thing or another. Achan is about the same; they are still experimenting with all kinds of theories on her in the hope that one of them will work; now they are trying to sweat all the "poison" out of her system, and so bundle her up and make her perspire all day; poor kid, she is so thin and pale looking, but in good spirits.

The folks that live below the tracks down to Jiro's place, like Matsy, Okulas, Mizumotos all have to evacuate their places. Poor things; so most of them are moving up to Pearl City. Navy order, it seems. It has been farm land, so I wonder what they will do to find farm land elsewhere. We are only hoping they won't make us leave too; I really wouldn't know where to go to; guess we'd have to bunk in with Sam temporarily, but that would be awful, with their two kids and ours too! What do you suggest if such a thing should come; should I ask Mr. Tester for a plantation house? Those with farms have three months to harvest their crops, but I think they can't live on the premises. Most of them have left already, and are bunking in temporarily with friends up in P.C.

The other day Peter locked himself up in the hall closet, you know where we keep old newspapers. I thought it was funny, so opened the door, and I found him crying as if his heart would break. He said he had some old nails which Kito had given him, and he had them in a can, and Tommy and Jr. had stolen them. He cried and cried. Pretty soon, I told him to go outside and he came back in a few minutes and said that it was all right, they had returned them! It was the first time I've seen him cry so much, and he was ashamed to let us see him crying, I guess! Shows how much he's matured. Kito gives him scrap lumber and old nails and he just loves to go out in Kito's shed and build things. We have them all over the house now.

Saw Capt. Woods yesterday with a new medical officer at the camp; he sends his best regards to you. Margaret's mother isn't a bit happy about Kiyoshi's promotion; she feels that now he will have to lead a group and the hazards will be greater; I guess all mother's feel that way. I saw Mr. Okuda the other day too; said his boy had sent him some Ajinomoto from N.Y. and said he had mochi on New Year's while on furlough. Saw the Kikuchi folks yesterday at Church; said their brother has recovered from his wounds now; had been in a hospital in North Africa it seems. Oh yes, obachan got a letter from Takeshi's mother the other day; Tak had to be hospitalized for chilblains or some infection arising from cold weather, and was in a hospital in N. Africa too for awhile, but has recovered by now.

She also wrote that your mother was in the hospital for 10 days, and since then has been convalescing at home, so I presume she is getting along all right.

This Thursday night is the Leeward Lion's anniversary dinner dance at the Tavern. Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki want me to go with them; they don't dance either, so we may all sit out and watch. Jiro is going to find out if the women are going to dress in evening dresses; if so I won't go, as I don't have anything that I can get into; I'm still all out of shape, and have gained weight. It's to be from 6 to 9, and should be a gala affair. Funny yesterday I tried on my clothes and couldn't get into most of them! Guess I'll have to buy or make a few until I get back my girlish figure again!

Next Sunday night Hugh Robertson is going to preach at our Church. On the 19th the Ewa group have invited our gang for a social; and on the 20th John Beck is going to be ordained by Dunnie, so our Church is going to attend that too. I don't know if I will go to any of them, depends on how I feel at that time; I don't like to drive at night unless someone is with me on the road.

This morning I took the car up to Country Motors to be serviced. I'm planning to go to town this Saturday to see the dr. and to get me Hickam pass straightened out. Will try to get something then for you friend, Ladley Husted, and also will get something for Emiko Abe, also a birthday gift for Karen.

We had a nice ham yesterday noon; I got it at the commissary; very reasonable for a big half of a ham. I supposed all much meats are rationed over there. We haven't had any chicken for months though; not even frozen ones are available now. I could go for some of that southern fried chicken you write about. What is the secret of it, can you find out what the recipe is? What does an average chicken dinner cost in a restaurant these days.

There was an article in the Hawaii Times about the annual you are making now; how the Emergency Morale committee had sent the chaplains money asking you folks to get something for the boys for Xmas, and how the boys wanted this annual instead. Is Yamada back now? Will you have to go down to La. too yet?

Already people are asking me if I want to go to work; Thelma asked me if I would be interested in taking her job as part time Y secretary out here; Mrs. Suzuki said George wanted to know if I would teach kindergarten up at P.C. I've told them all no for the time being; I think I need a nice long rest.

Those pralines you sent were one; we ate them up in no time. At first we broke one in three and ate them gingerly, but pretty soon, we got to eating a whole one at a time. I'm going to try to make some with the pecans you sent too; I have a recipe for it.

This is such a beautiful day; as I sit here I can see the blue sky and the coconut trees waving in the breeze; the red African tulips alongside; wish I could send you a colored picture of the scene. Just the kind of a day you'd want to hop into the car and go on a picnic to some beach; when you come back we must do that every day until we get filled with ocean air. Peter is looking forward to such days with you again too. He is so excited about the prospect of going camping with you; by that time he'll probably be an ardent fisherman like you too.

Today Jane is exactly two months old; I just weighed her, and she is 10 lb. 13 oz. She is so chubby and looks exactly like Peter now; big eyes, cute nose, high forehead, even Peter's eyebrows! She coos now and spends a lot of time gazing at her right hand; must wonder what it is. You should see her smile, personality girl, that's her, and she has dimples you know. I think she will break many a heart when she grows up! You probably have to chase many a wolf away from our doorstep!

Peter just came home; he missed his bus with Bonnie; it seems some of the Aiea kids went into Kawano's to shop, and of course those two had to tag along. So poor Mrs. Suzuki had to wait up at the corner for an hour! We just ate lunch too, Peter is now playing out at Kito's.

Jane is crying now, so will close. We miss you, honey; please take care of yourself. Maybe you're working too hard, if you're not gaining weight.

Obachan says hello to you too.

Love,

Hiroko