

24th Febraury 1945

Dear Mom:

Received your letter written on the 1st today the day after my birthday and thanks. Since writing the last letter to you, I have been rather busy - visiting the hospitals and taking care of a few things for the men. I made a hike out to one of the worst outposts in this place and felt very much in need of a good rest - but no rest forthcoming and I am still rather broke until pay day. Reminds me - I loaned forty dollars to a feller by the name of Sakamoto from Honolulu. He had a pass to Paris and had no money so I loaned him the money - he will write home to his parents to send the money to you so don't be surprised if someone comes over with forty dollars for you.

Am rather sorry to hear that you may have to give up your YW work - I suppose you will have to go back to the department but if you feel that the latter is too hard for you - by all means, better give up the work.

Got a letter from Kenbo today - he wrote the whole thing in scrip. It was so cute - I wrote to him some months ago - and he wants souvenirs. I hope I can get him a helmet or something - guess I better too. He calls Etsuo "your brother" - writes "your brother this and your brother thus" it sounded rather funny.

The war seems to be progressing ok - according to the paper tonight, the western push is on. I hope it is the real thing - I am getting so that I don't believe papers anymore as everytime a little action begins, they write it so big.

Notice you got some new stationery. Don't like them as they don't have space enough. I suppose pretty soon we will have to move from the house - but hope not until I come home. I wrote to Yoshida and told him to see about it for me some time ago and try and let you stay there until I come home. Hope that is possible.

Now that California is opened up - I wonder how many people are going back. Quite a few will I know. Do you remember Shig Aratani that used to have a printing shop in LA. He is here in one of the companies and I did have quite a few nice talks with him. The complexion of the outfit is gradually changing due to replacements and such - so that the mainland boys are in the larger majority. The island boys have most of them been wounded or killed - and very few of the original groups are here. Thus, I have to begin making friends and such all over again -

Hope the new allotment I made for you is coming alright.



Ken wrote to me and said that as a prize for buying five dollars worth of stamps he had a free jeep ride. I suppose, a jeep is still a very interesting animal for civilians but as for me I am sick and tired of riding in one and often dream of being on our old plymouth again. We chaplains have a jeep all to ourselves - it is very handy as we do a lot of traveling from place to place. However, with no sides - it is awfully cold - especially these days. In the summer, we take all the dust.

I often think of the firstdays of combat - and the strangeness of it all. The dusty roads of Italy - and the terrific shelling I used to run into through my ignorance of combat - since coming from France, I haven't had much of that although have had some awfully close shaves. I remember one day up in the Vosges mountains - we were all standing around the Aid Station helping with the wounded when we heard the shhh of a shell - heard the thing hit a tree and drop - not more than ten feet away. It was a dud - thank my lucky stars for it today - at the moment we just ran for our trenches but after a while the awful feeling of having a narrow escape got us. Or another time while going up for services on sunday - as I heard that the men were holding - ran right smack in a counter attack, ran for cover with bullets whining above my head and shells bursting on the trees. Made it that time too - or another time the men were in a chow line and a whopper hit the side of the building. Funnfy how we think of those things now and just shrug it off - but at the moment it kind of gets you.

So many people have written to me of Hideo's induction. He must have been a popular boy - he is certainly a most unspoilt boy and a good feller all around. I know that the home crowd will miss him - and certainly hope that he won't have to fight any battles.

Take care of yourself mom - I am ok - enclose find a few snapshots.

love

Dad